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'Substantial Differences' Noted in Geneva Talks

LD0508194188 Moscow TASS in English 1916 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva August 5 TASS—Meetings and debates in the framework of the two groups—on strategic offensive arms and on outer space—continued last week at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms.

There are substantial differences so far in the approaches of the two sides to the questions of space. While the Soviet side consistently conducts the line at reflecting precisely and completely the Washington formula of December 10, 1987 in the separate agreement being drafted (the delegations have the task of creating a joint project of this agreement), the U.S. side continues striving to making "supplements" to it, aimed at altering the essence of the arrangements in the spirit of a "broader" interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

During the meetings, the Soviet side set out additional considerations aimed at coordinating in full volume the draft protocol to the agreement being prepared on questions of the ABM Treaty. The protocol is called upon to ensure the confidence that the ABM Treaty will be strictly observed, and envisages a complex of measures for verification, confidence-building and enhancement of predictability.

In the group on strategic offensive arms, the USSR delegation continued making proposals aimed at the implementation of the arrangements reached during the Soviet-American summit in Moscow, on the question of control over mobile launchers for intercontinental ballistic missiles. The Soviet delegation expects a constructive response of the U.S. side to these proposals.

The U.S. delegation, toward the implementation of the Moscow agreements, proposed some wordings on the limitation of long-range air-launched cruise missiles and heavy bombers. The United States proposals are being studied. But it is already apparent that they have substantial drawbacks. Thus the U.S. approach shows a tendency toward weakening the regime of monitoring and inspections with regard to air-launched cruise missiles and heavy bombers. According to the U.S. proposals some heavy bombers, besides that, would not be counted in the total ceiling for strategic delivery vehicles set at 1,600 units. The U.S. side also continues insisting on such an order of counting long-range nuclear-armed air-launched cruise missiles that would lead to the fact that not all such missiles on heavy bombers be counted.

During the discussions the Soviet side resolutely declared for active work in the subgroup on questions of verification in order to work out measures ensuring effective verification of the restrictions on all kinds of strategic offensive arms to which the future agreement on strategic offensive arms applies.

The Soviet delegation has also tabled a number of proposals making it possible to reach advance [as received] in agreeing on a draft protocol on reequipment and elimination implemented for the achievement and maintenance of sharply lowered total quantitative levels of strategic offensive arms to be set under the treaty.

Palyonykh Comments on Joint Nuclear Testing

LD0508154988 Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—A TASS correspondent writes:

The USSR and the USA have already accumulated very positive experience in the area of nuclear testing, including the exchange of experts on nuclear armaments and on nuclear tests, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rozanne Ridgway said in Washington yesterday. She made this statement in connection with the fact that intensive preparations for joint experiments for verification of nuclear explosions are now conducted at proving grounds in the USSR and the USA.

The opinion of the representative of the U.S. Department of State attests to the growing attention of the U.S. side to the joint experiment. The process of preparation for the experiment is viewed in the Soviet Union as a good experience of openness and interaction. Head of the Soviet delegation to the Soviet-American full-scale talks on the limitation and termination of nuclear testing Igor Palyonykh said at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists at the Press Centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry on Thursday that as a result of the experiment the Soviet Union hopes to achieve mutually-acceptable solutions related not only to the existing Soviet-American treaties on the limitation of underground nuclear testing but also to further agreements in this area.

The task of the joint Soviet-American experiment is to establish in practice what perfected measures of verification should be used for the control over the observance of the 1974 Soviet-American treaty on the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests. "A joint experiment will make it possible to switch the discussion of the problem from the area of theoretical debates to a practical plane", holds the head of the Soviet group of specialists for the experiment on verification at the range in Nevada, Viktor Mikhaylov.

Two explosions will be set off in the framework of the experiment: one at the range in Nevada, USA, on August 17, the other at the range in Semipalatinsk in the USSR in mid-September. Their yield should approach 150 kilotons, and in any case be no less than 100 kilotons. Both sides will get an opportunity on the basis of complete reciprocity to measure the yield of explosions by a teleseismic way as the Soviet side proposed at the talks, and by a hydrodynamic method proposed by the U.S. side. The drilling and measurement of a satellite hole at the Nevada range is being made under the

observance of Soviet specialists, and at the Semipalatinsk range in the presence of American experts. After the explosions the sides will process the results of measurements, make an analysis and exchange seismic data. Then on the basis of the results of the experiment they will embark upon working out measures of verification.

The ultimate aim of the joint experiment is a complete ban on nuclear testing, which should only be welcomed.

Deputy Minister Petrovskiy on Test Ban Treaty
PM0508141388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Take the Actual Conditions Into Account"]

[Text] The date 5 August marks 25 years since the Moscow signing by the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Underwater. More than 100 other countries have subscribed to the document since then.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy spoke with a TASS correspondent about the significance of the three great powers' adoption of this document of major importance in the history of mankind and about its role in the present day.

The treaty occupies an important place in the system of treaties and agreements limiting the arms race and paving the way to a safer world and to disarmament. The document successfully blocked any possibility of testing nuclear weapons in the three spheres and thus, experts believe, contributed in particular to reducing global radioactive fallout in the upper atmosphere as a result of previous explosions in the arena.

Now that a complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapons tests has been set as a priority task of the foreign policy of the USSR and other socialist countries, as confirmed at the Warsaw session of the Political Consultative Committee, it is appropriate to recall the lessons of the conclusion of the treaty in question. I think one of the main lessons was that, through joint efforts and given goodwill, it is possible to solve the most complex issues relating to both the political and technical aspects of banning nuclear weapons tests, including a general and complete ban. It is far easier to tackle these issues now than it was 25 years ago. The problem of verification was one of the stumbling blocks in the conclusion of the treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the three spheres. The USSR, the United States, and Britain had different approaches to verification at the time. It was extremely difficult to find a common denominator—a balance of interests in this matter. Now verification is not an obstacle. The USSR is actively in favor of comprehensive verification—both national and international, with onsite inspection. The treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which represents the actual physical destruction of two classes of nuclear weapons, is a unique example of effective verification applied to disarmament in the nuclear sphere.

A second lesson will follow from this. We have been and remain advocates of a radical solution—the immediate and all-embracing prohibition of nuclear tests. But we do not take a maximalist stance—all or nothing. Taking into account the actual conditions and the actual readiness of the other nuclear powers, above all the United States, which in no way wants to do away with the blinders of nuclear deterrence, we favor a gradual, step-by-step solution of this important problem through such intermediate solutions as restrictions on the number and yield of nuclear tests.

Following the joint Soviet-U.S. experiment the opportunity will arise to implement ratification of the 1974 and 1976 treaties and then effect a radical reduction in the ceilings and number of nuclear explosions per year. The sooner this happens the better. Anyway, we are not going to delay matters. But this should not be an aim in itself. We deem it necessary to move rapidly toward the conclusion of a treaty on the general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. Recognizing the importance and urgency of this problem, the Soviet Union is prepared to take advantage of every opportunity to achieve this. We are holding bilateral Soviet-U.S. talks, but we are also prepared to hold trilateral talks, if necessary. We are also in favor of finally moving away from debate and embarking on the elaboration of a treaty at a multilateral forum, at the Geneva Disarmament Conference. It was to this end that the socialist countries presented at the forum their draft multilateral treaty envisaging, in particular, reliable verification measures. I think that in view of the issue's importance, one might establish a kind of competition between the bilateral and trilateral processes of reaching an accord.

I will say that we also appreciate the proposal by a number of countries to turning the treaty, whose jubilee is currently being celebrated, into a general treaty; that is, to extend it to underground explosions.

Our principled stance on a moratorium on nuclear tests remains unchanged: We are prepared, on a reciprocal basis with the United States, to reintroduce and observe it; not, however, for 18 months, as before, but forever. We reiterated this at the UN General Assembly third special session on disarmament.

The anniversary of the treaty's conclusion also brings to mind the fact that it was the product of common efforts by governments, science, and the public. Scientists played a very important part not only from the viewpoint of drawing attention to the treaty's importance; they also demonstrated the realistic nature of its conclusion and of implementing its verification. I think that this experience of bringing scientists and broad public circles into the solution of problems is useful even now.

There is political symbolism in the fact that the treaty was signed in Moscow. It was signed in August; that is, the month when nuclear weapons were first used by the United States in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The symbolism is intensified by the fact that Moscow has again been urging all countries to move immediately, unrelentingly, and rapidly toward a nuclear-free, nonviolent world so that the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is never repeated and so that the ban on nuclear weapon tests becomes a regular norm of states' civilized behavior in an interdependent world.

USSR, PRC Share Common Stance on Test Ban

OW0508143188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Twenty-five years ago on 5 August 1963, representatives of the Soviet and Chinese Governments signed a treaty in Moscow on banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere and outer space. That was an event of historical significance. Two nuclear powers of the Western countries (?have also signed) treaties with the USSR on limiting and putting a stop to the nuclear arms race. At present, about 120 countries have signed the nuclear arms treaty banning the production and test of nuclear weapons. The two nuclear powers of France and China (?did not sign) this treaty [words indistinct]. During the past few years, China has, in principle, abided by the (?spirit) of this treaty. At present, the issue lies in reaching an international agreement on a total nuclear test ban. As early as 1963, the USSR has insisted on the ban of underground nuclear tests. However, the other nuclear powers were not ready for this. Not long ago, underground nuclear testing was once again included in the agenda of Soviet-American talks (?after much contention). The USSR believes that total nuclear test ban is the important premise for the actual reduction of nuclear weapons. Please listen to a short commentary by our station's observer on the positions of other nuclear powers:

On all major issues regarding putting a stop to the nuclear arms race, the stances of the Soviet Union and China have been fairly close and often in agreement. This was proven at the recent special UN conference on disarmament. I believe that under these specific circumstances, there is no need to go into details on the common stance of the Soviet Union and China. Moreover, all problems related to a total nuclear test ban involve the U.S. position. It is common knowledge that the series of underground nuclear tests conducted at the Nevada test-site is directly related to the development of (?space offensive weapons) and [words indistinct]. These tests are part of the U.S. research in space weapons, and the third generation of advanced nuclear weapons. That is why the United States has been delaying and refused to reach an agreement with the USSR on a total nuclear test ban. The Soviet Union and the United States are still holding talks on this issue.

UN Security Council To Discuss Iran-Iraq Talks

LD0708212488 Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] New York August 7 TASS—It has been officially announced here that consultations of the U.N. Security Council would be held on Sunday [as received] in connection with the consent from Iran and Iraq with the proposals of the U.N. secretary general on ceasefire and on entering into direct talks aimed at an Iranian-Iraqi settlement.

Soviet Envoy Criticizes NATO Stand on CSCE

LD0508204688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Vienna, 5 Aug (TASS)—Ambassador Yu.B. Kashlev, the head of the Soviet delegation at the Vienna meeting of representatives of states participating in the CSCE, gave a news conference at the Vienna international center today.

In recent weeks at the Vienna meeting, noted the Soviet diplomat, the foreign policy initiatives of the socialist countries taken jointly with a number of other delegations—including the FRG and France—enabled accords to be drawn up which have permitted at least 90 percent of the text of the proposed final document to be agreed.

Referring to the military section of the final document, the ambassador noted that that delegations had on the table a text proposed by the neutral and nonaligned countries, which is fully acceptable to the socialist countries, but is to all intents and purposes unacceptable to the NATO countries. The large quantity of amendments—amendments, moreover, which at times alter the sense of the text—that they have put forth shows that during the forthcoming technical recess from 8 to 29 August and immediately after it, the NATO countries will have to make efforts to adopt a more flexible and acceptable position, to make greater compromises, thus removing the obstacles in the way of a conclusion of the Vienna meeting. As far as the socialist countries are concerned, they have effectively proposed one amendment on the extension in the future of confidence-building measures to independent military activity by air and naval forces. In practically everything that remains they support the position of the neutral and nonaligned countries and are ready to accept their text.

The head of the Soviet delegation said that the optimal combination of clauses on the sovereign rights of states, including the right to make laws, with the agreement to bring national legislation into line with international obligations has been found. It is possible to effectively believe that for the majority of delegations the sections on religious freedom, freedom of movement, legal protection for the activities of citizens, etc. are acceptable.

To date, many knots have been untied that are important for the fate of many people: on a sharp reduction in the time for examining applications to travel abroad in emergencies, travel on the grounds of family ties and with the aim of uniting families or marriage, on a regular re-examination of applications on which decisions have not been made, on the validity of documents needed to legalize a trip.

Of course, it has not yet been possible to decide a number of complex issues. A number of delegations will require new directives. However, the start that has been made enables one to hope that after the break, they will be resolved, on condition, of course, that a realistic and constructive approach rather that futile maximalism prevails in the work.

Thus far, no final decision has been reached regarding the number and locations for holding subsequent ventures following on from the Vienna meeting. It is no secret to anyone that this is to a significant decree brought about by the position of the U.S. delegation that is against the organization of a number of the ventures proposed. This is tantamount to a reluctance to develop the all-European process more widely and more deeply. A situation is developing in which a single delegation is not giving its consent to the holding of a whole series of almost half of the all-European ventures, which are proposed out of the best motives by the other countries and which are widely supported, the Soviet ambassador said.

There has also been a definite advance at the consultations of 23 Warsaw Pact and NATO countries to work out a mandate for talks on reducing armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. In addition to the earlier agreed sections of the mandate, such as the aims of the talks, monitoring [kontrol] and exchange of data, the preamble, and the accord to begin the talks in 1988, in recent weeks clauses have been registered on those to be participants in the talks and the compulsorily international nature of future agreements. Also agreed are practically all the organizational conditions and the procedure for conducting the talks.

In recent days, a definitive rapprochement has been reached among the positions of the sides on a key element of the mandate—on the subject matter of the talks, particularly regarding their examination of dual purpose weapons. Also discussed in detail were matters relating to determining the geographical zone of the talks.

It has to be said straight out, said Yu. B. Kashlev, that the positive moves at the 23-country consultations that have taken place lately were possible as a result of constructive steps on the part of the countries of the Warsaw Pact. We are waiting for analogous steps on the part of the NATO states which, sadly, often take up inflexible and rigid positions unconducive to the success of the talks.

Kornilov: Idea of European Home Gains Support
LD0508155388 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

"European states, relying on their unique historic and political experience, have every opportunity to strengthen the foundations of peace and cooperation in the continent". Head of the Soviet foreign policy department Eduard Shevardnadze said this during a recent conversation in Moscow with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Commenting on this statement of the Soviet foreign minister, on the process of the improvement of Soviet-West German relations, many observers emphasized that idea of a "common European home" is gaining ground in Europe and receives ever new supporters.

And this is really so. True, Europe is still divided into opposing military-political blocs. But looking back and assessing important positive changes and shifts that have taken place in the world in the recent years we can say with full ground that every condition has been created now for Europe to become a real home for the 700 million of its population, even though the objectively formed distinctions between separate countries or group of countries are preserved. A considerable part of the work toward the construction of such a "common home" has been made at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states held recently in Warsaw. Their three-stage plan for the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe, their proposals for the holding of a European summit, for the creation of a military risk reduction centre in Europe present a single package of measures leading to new peaceful and secure Europe.

The proposals of the participants in the Warsaw forum met with broad positive response in Europe and beyond its limits, but this, regrettably, does not mean that the enemies of detente abandoned their efforts. Indeed, how can one assess, for instance, recent statements by U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci that he sees no changes in the Soviet military doctrine? What construction can be put on statements made by NATO circles that the initiatives made by socialist countries in Warsaw are prompted by the striving to "drive a wedge" between Western Europe and the USA, and not by concern for European security? It is known how difficult it is to spot a black cat in a dark room, but this effort becomes absolutely pointless if there is no cat in the room. And they in the West who, contrary to facts, continue making allegations about the mythical "Soviet menace" and Moscow's "perfidious designs" are engaged in precisely such a pointless undertaking.

We, naturally, are aware of the fact that the positions of different states on key problems of disarmament are not the same, and we do not intend to claim the role of an oracle stating indisputable truths. One would think the common task is not in registering differences and, moreover, not in sowing distrust by distorting facts but in seeking out common positions and suggesting compromises. Only this approach can promote the strengthening of mutual understanding and cooperation among all Europeans from the Atlantic to the Urals, from the Norwegian fjords to the coasts of Italy.

Delegate Views Lisbon Management Conference
PM0508105588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Volkov interview with Prof B.Z. Milner, Soviet scientist, doctor of economic sciences, and member of the International Management Academy, in Lisbon on 2 August under the headline "Managers Consult" and the rubric "Our Interviews"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Excerpts] The European Management Congress has completed its work in Estoril—a resort in the suburbs of the Portuguese capital. Journalists have given it a shorter title—the managers' congress.

For 4 days hundreds of eminent representatives of various business circles, political figures, economic scientists, and consultants from large industrial firms and associations have been discussing issues connected with improving the art of managing industry and science and their link with trade and the consumer. Professor B.Z. Milner, Soviet scientist, doctor of economic sciences, and member of the International Management Academy, took part in this international forum. He shared his impressions of the congress in a conversation with your correspondent in Lisbon. [passage omitted]

[Volkov] What useful ideas can our country draw from the proposals made at the congress?

[Milner] As the congress showed, many of the problems now arising in the course of restructuring our economy are universal. I have already mentioned the phenomenon known as bureaucratization. I will give you another example. The leaders of large firms and concerns are, like us, faced with the problem of quality of management. They are asking themselves the question: Is it worth managing routine production processes? Is this really the role of the leader? The answer to this is absolutely clear—a manager must primarily be a strategist, able to look a long way ahead and be conversant with all the scientific and technological innovations in his sector. It is interesting to note that many European countries have introduced the rule whereby all leaders, irrespective of rank and position, are obliged to spend 3 weeks every year boosting their qualifications. Numerous courses, seminars, and symposiums are held for this purpose and special training equipment is used to practice management methods. They undergo intensive

training courses rather like the programs we use to train cosmonauts. All the factors are weighed when assessing a manager's level of competence.

Another interesting detail. Representatives of the American ITT Company talked about their experience of getting together erstwhile rivals and partners. In addition to ITT, this original international electronics and communications consortium includes firms such as the Dutch "Philips," the Italian "Olivetti," and the Spanish "Telefonica" companies. The aim of their getting together is to make rapid scientific and technical progress in their field.

[Volkov] Whereas at previous international management congresses our delegations have essentially played the role of extras, now the processes of restructuring in our country's economy and political life are literally the focus of attention of business representatives.

[Milner] It really is hard to convey in words the great interest that was shown in the report on the progress of radical reform in our country's economic management. I had to answer hundreds of questions informally during the plenary session. The business world of Europe, the United States, Japan, and other capitalist countries sincerely wants to understand the essence and depth of the changes being made in our country. Of course, they are mainly interested to know how our restructuring will affect trade and to establish the actual mechanisms and conditions of collaboration with partners and our priorities and guarantees. In this respect it was unpleasant to have to hear business people who want to build mutually advantageous ties with us talking about bureaucratic barriers and red tape still to be eliminated on our side, unreliability, the obstacles caused by instructions, and our orientation toward outmoded methods. Unfortunately, as some of the congress participants pointed out, they have still not really felt the effects of the restructuring of management of foreign economic ties in the USSR.

Business Association Set Up in Vladvistok

LD0508163088 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—An association of business cooperation with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region has been set up in Vladivostok, Soviet Far East, though the sphere of its interests and activity reaches beyond the Far Eastern boundaries.

In his conversation with Yasuhiro Nakasone, held during the Japanese MP's recent visit to the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed the need of starting to move forward in the interests of all and everybody who has any relation to the Asia-Pacific region through more dynamic economic ties, bilateral and multi-lateral political dialogue, the creation of trust zones and other steps. The establishment of the association cooperating with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region is a noticeable step on this way.

The association was founded by 85 major industrial enterprises and organisations, as well as several cooperatives which drew up and approved its charter and would see to all financial matters over the first two years. After that, the association will switch over to total cost-accounting.

"We have elected the association's council, the highest governing body. Now that we have been given so many rights, everything depends on our initiative, boldness and competence. Our priority task is total cost-accounting, self-financing and currency recoupment," Valeriy Lozovoy, the council's director general, told TASS.

The association has already received interesting offers from the Swedish firm Vonson AB. Three Soviet organisations at a time—Primorlesprom, Dalintorg and a youth housing cooperative from Nakhodka—are going to set up a joint venture with five Japanese firms to manufacture semi-finished products for furniture out of valuable specimens of Far Eastern timber.

"We are establishing contacts with businessmen in various countries. Representatives of business circles of the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia are coming to Vladivostok for negotiations. These are only first steps. We do not rule out cooperation with all countries who will offer us mutually-benficifial and interesting contracts," Valeriy Lozovoy said in conclusion.

'International Situation' Discusses Current Events

LD0508225688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 5 Aug 88

["International Situation—Questions and Answers" program, presented by All-Union Radio foreign political commentator Sergey Pravdin, with TASS political observer Anatoliy Andreyevich Krasikov and Pravdin's "colleagues" Vladimir Pasko, Yuriy Isayev, and Aleksandr Malikov]

[Excerpts] [Pravdin] A few days ago the world marked the 13th anniversary of the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Looking back at the traveled road, leading statesmen from countries with various political systems are reexamining the whole international situation in light of new phenomena and tendencies in world politics from positions of new political thinking. The time has come to position reference points along the road to lasting peace. That was precisely the spirit permeating the documents of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee meeting which took place last month in Warsaw.

We have received many letters whose authors ask questions about the prospects for progress in military detente. In particular, we are asked about this by Svetlana Nikolayevna Korotkova, senior medical officer of Moscow Ambulance Service, and the whole collective of Ambulance Service Substation 32;, Anna Alekseyevna Pyatakova from Moscow, who, incidentally, recently turned 95; Vasiliy Ivanovich Chereshnev from the town of Khotkovo in Moscow Oblast; Comrades Popov from Petrozavodsk, Zhukovskiy from Vladivostok, Smyshlyayev from the town of Gryazovets in Vologda Oblast, Terentyev from Dushanbe; and many others. We asked TASS political observer Anatoliy Andreyevich Krasikov to reply to our listeners' letters.

Anatoliy Andreyevich, perhaps we will begin with the question about how the present anniversary of the Helsinki agreements was marked.

[Krasikov] Well, I think that the best gift for mankind, in the sense of progressing toward a more secure world, and about which the participants in the Helsinki conference dreamed, was the destruction of the first intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, launchers, and auxilliary equipment. This destruction is taking place in accordance with the Soviet-U.S. treaty which was signed in Washington during a summit meeting between the leaders of the two powers. Overall this event goes further than what was envisaged by the Helsinki accords, but this is precisely a development of their spirit and their letter. For the first time in history, powers which oppose one another are not simply limiting but are indeed really reducing their armaments and destroying a part of them, and a dangerous part—the most dangerous part at that. This is something that they could probably only dream of in Helsinki.

At the center for the destruction of Soviet missiles in Kazakhstan there have been many foreign guests—representatives of international and national peace organizations, and journalists. The precise observance of conditions for eliminating Soviet launch vehicles was viewed by U.S. inspectors, while our Soviet specialists have received temporary entry permits for military ranges in the United States. Here is what one of our experts, Lieutenant Colonel Murashchenkov, said on returning home: Good, businesslike contacts with the U.S. specialists were already established after 1 and ½ to 2 hours of working together, although at the beginning some tension could be felt. Perhaps we ourselves were partly guilty of that. I, for example, he went on, have never before been abroad or associated with foreigners. So you can't not worry. But everything worked out all right. The Americans accompanying us turned out to be sociable and benevolent people. As specialists their knowledge of their business was excellent. They provided exhaustive answers to all our questions. During our second trip we visited a munitions works in Longhorn, in the state of Texas, declared by the U.S. side as an elimination site for Pershing-2 missiles. The missile stage is placed on a special stand and launched in the normal way. But it cannot fly anywhere, because it is firmly fixed. However, if, for example, a fault is discovered in the missile and for that reason it cannot be fired, it will be blown up. That is our specialists', our expert's story. And today the papers have reported that a group made up of 10 Soviet inspectors arrived at Patrick U.S. military base on Cape Canaveral in the state of Florida. They will carry out verification [kontrolnyy] work at the range where tests of the Pershing-2 missiles, which is subject to elimination, have taken place.

[Pravdin] Exchange visits along the military line are taking place not just at the level of inspectors but also at a high level.

[Krasikov] Indeed, mutual visits by Soviet and U.S. military leaders have been resumed after a break of nearly 10 years. In March this year the two countries' defense ministers met on neutral ground, so to speak, in Switzerland. Then, within the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Moscow, two separate conversations between our defense minister, Army General Yazov, and U.S. Defense Secretary Carlucci, took place. Marshal of the Soviet Union Akhromeyev visited the United States in July. And now, at the beginning of August, U.S. Defense Minister Carlucci visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of Army Gen Yazov.

[Pravdin] Today it is precisely a quarter of a century since the day when in Moscow representatives of the governments of the three powers—the Soviet Union, the United States, and Great Britain—signed a treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in space, and underwater. A group of lecturers from the Political Economy Department at Moscow's Tsiolkovskiy Aviation Technology Institute asks what can be said about this document now, 25 years later.

[Krasikov] The agreement, the jubilee of which we mark today, became—well, let's be frank about it—an important landmark along the road of limiting the arms race. For the first time in the long years of the cold war, states of various social systems managed then to reach agreement on an issue which indeed affected the vital interests of everyone on earth. The world saw that through joint efforts and with goodwill, even such complex issues could be solved. That was an important first step, followed by others. It is symbolic, I think, that the treaty was signed precisely in Moscow. The representatives of the three powers put their signatures to it literally on the eve of the successive anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. The treaty was signed on 5 August, and today is 5 August, while 6 August is the day of the destruction of Hiroshima, which is now marked as the international day of action for banning nuclear weapons. The negotiations on stopping the tests lasted 5 years—that is, they started in 1958 and ended in 1963—and the discussion concerned a total ban on all nuclear blasts for military purposes. That is precisely what was being discussed at the negotiations. But as we know as we can see, the ban turned out not to be total. First, in the geographic sense—at that time France and China, which

at the time were interested in creating and perfecting their own types of nuclear weapons, did not join the treaty. And second, the ban was imposed on tests in the atmosphere, in space and underwater; that is, it did not cover every sphere, specifically underground nuclear blasts. But, of course, even in this limited form, as we know, the treaty nonetheless was of great benefit, both as an example and as a specific result. But, of course, obviously it would be much beter if the ban on nuclear tests indeed was total.

[Pravdin] The reasons which prompted France and China not to be parties to the treaty are clear, and we understand clearly that the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain could not prompt these countries to review their negative position. Our listeners, Comrades Ivan Ivanovich and Lidiya Viktorovna Chereshnev, from the town of Labytnangi, Tyumen Oblast—the name of the town means seven larches, by the way—ask whether one should not have achieved a situation from the very start in which at least the three powers that signed the treaty would have halted all nuclear weapons tests, including underground tests.

[Krasikov] At that juncture, the stumbling-block was the problem of verification of a nuclear tests ban. Citing expert opinion, the Soviet Union stated that in order to determine nuclear blasts national means of verification sufficed, but our Western partners, for their part, asserted that the means of verification at their disposal could only detect blasts in the atmosphere, in space, and underwater. As far as underground blasts were concerned, to verify the ban on them they demanded that we permit them to carry out on-site inspections. We did not agree to this. So in the end underground blasts had to be excluded from the general ban.

[Pravdin] Anatoliy Andreyevich, some of our listeners, and in particular Zinaida Mikhaylovna Nikolayeva from Moscow, and Comrades Makarov from (Krivozerye), Pensa Oblast, Kolotilkin from Krasnodar, Viktor Nikolayevich Kaol from the settlement of Tayezhnyy in Tyumen Oblast, Moskvin from Omsk, and others, are interested in problems of disarmament verification.

[Krasikov] Questions of verification, and specifically verification of tests, are not now an obstacle to the attainment of accords. The Soviet Union advocates all-round verification—national and international, and on-site inspections—and we are willing to use every opportunity to achieve this goal. We are currently conducting bilateral talks with the United States on this matter. We are also prepared, if necessary, to hold trilateral talks with the participation of Britain. We believe that we could set about drawing up a treaty at a multilateral forum. Incidentally, the socialist countries have already prepared their own draft multilateral treaty, which could be signed by all countries. Interim solutions, such as limitations on underground testing in terms of their number and yield, are also possible. And finally we are willing on a reciprocal basis with the United States to declare a moratorium on all nuclear tests, and every limitation, every ban, could be accompanied by the fullest verification. We are ready for this, we agree to this. [passage omitted]

[Pravdin] Vladimir Semenovich Markevich from the Belorussian town of Lida asks: In seeking accords with the United States, are we taking into account the nuclear potentials of Britain, France, and China? What is the attitude of these countries to the idea of nuclear disarmament? Here is my colleague Vladimir Pasko.

[Pasko] The Soviet Union and the United States account for 97 percent of all the nuclear missile armaments in the world. The relative share of China, Britain, and France in the global balance is insignificant. This makes it possible at the present stage to tackle the problem of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons by means of bilateral Soviet-U.S. accords. These countries' leaders have in the past repeatedly declared that they would be prepared to join the process of nuclear disarmament when the Soviet Union and the United States significantly reduce their nuclear arsenals. In submitting its 1986 program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, we proposed that these countries should start reducing their nuclear forces after the Soviet Union and the United State have cut by half their strategic weapons capable of reaching each other's territory. These countries' approach to nuclear disarmament cannot but be taken into account by us, of course. It is politically significant even now, when they do not play a direct part in the process. It is well-known that Britain and France's approval of the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles was of great importance toward achieving the relevant Soviet-U.S. accord. The Soviet Union's decision to agree to the total elimination of medium-range missiles sited in the Asian area was taken with due consideration to the PRC's position.

What is these countries' line in connection with the problems of nuclear armaments? As far as China is concerned, the PRC's official position envisages a full ban on, and destruction of, all nuclear, chemical, bacteriological, and space armaments, and a significant reduction in conventional armaments. China has backed the Soviet-U.S. dialogue on the limitation and radical reduction of armaments, has signed protocols to the treaty on a nuclear-free zone in the southern part of the Pacific Ocean, and has declared a halt to atmospheric nuclear tests. At the same time, the PRC retains a special attitude to the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

France has so far refused to take part in the search for ways of limiting the arms race. It has joined neither the treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, space, and underwater, nor the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, although, as a rule, it adheres to their provisions. France calls for the prevention of an arms race in space, and condemns the U.S SDI. France has backed the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. But at the same time it

makes it clear that in the foreseeable future it does not intend to join the process of nuclear disarmament. While declaring its support in principle for the idea of a 50 percent reduction in strategic nuclear forces, France adds the rider, without counting France's strike forces.

Unlike France, Britain is a party to the treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the three environments and the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. But it takes a negative view of the idea of a nuclear-free world. Unlike France and China, Britain backed the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, but it has come out against a revision of the ABM Treaty which is holding back the SDI. Unlike France, Britain does not flatly reject the possibility of discussing the question of its nuclear forces, but it is against talks on tactical nuclear weapons.

I should like to note the following: For a long time, both China, Britain, and France considered nuclear weapons as a very important prestige factor on the international scene. This prompted them to build up their arsenals and to regard the very idea of limiting and reducing nuclear armaments with suspicion. But the process of rethinking the role of nuclear weapons as a guarantee of security could not fail to have an impact on these countries. And although views of this question are not unequivocal, it seems to me that at a certain stage they will join in nuclear disarmament. The necessity of this is dictated by common sense and reality itself. [passage omitted citing Isayev on Nicaraguan contra movement and U.S. nuclear ships in Japan, and Malikov on the Afghan situation, Soviet-U.S. trade, and history of Amritsar's Golden Temple]

United States & Canada

Yazov Hails Carlucci Visit, Discussions

PM0508180788 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Army General D.T. Yazov, USSR Defense Minister: 'The Main Task Is To Ease Tension. Meetings Such as These Promote Mutual Understanding'"]

[Text] It has already been reported that U.S. Secretary of Defense F. Carlucci was on an official visit to the Soviet Union 1-4 August at the invitation of Army General D.T. Yazov, USSR defense minister. During the meetings the defense ministers discussed a number of problems of mutual interest. Army Gen D.T. Yazov made a statement to press representatives at the end of the visit. He said, in particular:

The mutually agreed upon program was totally fulfilled. We conducted talks touching on the Soviet and U.S. military doctrines; examined, on a reciprocal basis, questions of the building of the armed forces; discussed existing imbalances; and defined in a general outline the possibilities for force reductions on a bloc basis for both the Warsaw Pact and NATO. Mr Carlucci declared here that he must coordinate all issues in advance with the countries belonging to the NATO bloc.

During the talks we also examined some regional questions: the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Southeast Asia, Army Gen D.T. Yazov went on.

We showed Mr Carlucci the Kubinka Airfield, several types of aviation equipment, and battalion exercises using live fire near Alabino. When we arrived in the Crimea he was given the opportunity to visit the missile cruiser "Slava." The U.S. secretary of defense was very frankly briefed on tactical and technical specifications and was shown different types of weapons. In my opinion, Mr Carlucci was very satisfied.

Such frank meetings and frank talks promote mutual understanding and, it seems to us, will ease tension and contribute to strengthening peace. This is the main task which was resolved in the course of this meeting, Army Gen D.T. Yazov emphasized. I would like to give cordial thanks to journalists for the objective coverage of our meeting. You saw for yourselves that we parted not just as colleagues but as good friends. Thank you.

Carlucci Comments on Talks, Military Ties

PM0508193188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 First Edition p 1

[Interview with U.S. Secretary of Defense F. Carlucci by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Captain M. Zheglov: "U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci: 'Our Dialogue Has Advanced'"; date and place of interview not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Prior to his departure from the Soviet Union, U.S. Secretary of Defense F. Carlucci gave an interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Captain M. Zheglov. We publish the editorial office's questions and F. Carlucci's answers.

[Zheglov] Mr Secretary, are you pleased with the results of the visit? In your opinion, was any progress achieved and what does it comprise?

[Carlucci] I am highly satisfied with the results of my visit. Tangible progress was achieved during it in establishing contacts between our countries along military lines. We also discussed the decisions reached by our countries on the prevention of dangerous military activity and continued our dialogue on military doctrines. We clearly defined the differences between them and, at the same time, discovered points in common. The conversations also touched on such questions as military technology and how it is transferred, the problems of terrorism, and the different avenues for cooperation between our countries' armed forces. I saw demonstrations of Soviet military equipment and observed exercises. Thus I now have a better idea of Soviet military capabilities. All this is part of the process of consolidating trust, the result of efforts aimed at easing tension. As I remarked more than once, we are not participants in talks, we are simply trying to make our contribution to the all-around dialogue between our countries. I hope that this visit helped this dialogue to advance.

[Zheglov] On your arrival in the USSR you declared that, as secretary of defense, you were primarily interested in whether glasnost would entail less secrecy concerning Soviet military measures. What can you say about this at the end of your visit?

[Carlucci] I must say that we certainly felt the effect of glasnost. Our Soviet partners were very open toward us and answered all our questions. We were given the opportunity to visit the Military Academy of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, to observe exercises, and to inspect combat equipment. I myself sat in the cockpit of a Soviet bomber while one of the crew answered all our questions fully and frankly. We thus witnessed more openness in a sphere which was previously known for its secrecy. We welcome this. In my speech at the General Staff Military Academy, I said that it would be useful if the Soviet Union were to publish its military budget. I was told that this question is now in the discussion stage. Such a step would help the whole world to assess the Soviet Union's military capabilities and intentions.

[Zheglov] During this visit you had broad opportunities to come into contact with Soviet servicemen. What human qualities in Soviet servicemen impressed you the most?

[Carlucci] The high standard of professionalism. The airmen we saw were distinguished by their great skill. After all, the maneuvers they performed in the air were not simple. I met them after their flights. They made a favorable impression as representatives of Soviet society.

Impressive firepower and exceptionally skillful troop command, control, and collaboration were demonstrated within a short span of time during the ground forces exercises we observed. Every time I met Soviet servicemen I was impressed by their competence and dedication.

[Zheglov] Mr Secretary, some 2 months ago, when answering questions by a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, you spoke of the need to build bridges of mutual understanding between our countries. Meanwhile, in the United States and in a number of other Western countries there is still much talk of a "Soviet military threat." Do you think that the visit by the delegation you head will have an effect on the views of this "threat" prevailing within certain U.S. circles?

[Carlucci] Both sides hold different views on this problem. The USSR minister of defense and the chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff told us that they believe NATO poses a threat to the Warsaw Pact. Our views differ on this. Some of our people disagree with the opinion prevailing in the USSR about the defensive nature of the Soviet military doctrine. Much more remains to be done here. We must strive for better understanding of each other's military doctrines. In my view it is obvious that at present the Soviet Armed Forces are examining all aspects of their military doctrine. Certain changes have been made in the nature of the exercises taking place, but so far we have seen no changes in the Armed Forces' structure. It would be fair to say that virtually all Americans recognize the far-reaching changes occurring within Soviet society. But the question is: How deeply have these changes affected the military sphere? For the time being we continue to consider the currently existing structure of the USSR Armed Forces as an offensive one. We agree that changes require time. This is why we will watch, wait, and continue the dialogue.

Reagan Radio Address Highlights Defense Veto

LD0708100088 Moscow TASS in English 0924 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Washington August 7 TASS—The latest radio address of U.S. President Reagan was devoted to his decision to veto the defense authorization bill for 1989 that had been approved by Congress. The President accused Democrats in Congress of the intention to make "unilateral concessions to the Soviets". He said that the bill, if accepted, "would have undermined the strength we worked so hard to restore", that it was an attempt "to handcuff the President in our arms reduction negotiations with the Soviets".

The volume of military spendings approved by Congress, 299.5 billion dollars, does not differ much from the first request of the administration. Congress cut allocations for the SDI program from 4.9 to 4.1 billion dollars by limiting the development of the space parts of the program. The bill made it incumbent upon the President to strictly abide by the 1972 ABM Treaty. It reduced allocations for MX strategic nuclear missiles and increased a little allocations for the Midgetman ballistic missiles.

Local observers believe that the President took this step because of pre-election considerations. He tried to show that the Republican Party was the only party that worries about U.S. national defense interests. At present Vice-President George Bush, presidential candidate from the Republican Party, is lagging far behind the Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis by popularity. Commenting on the radio address of the President, UPI pointed out that his decision to veto the bill was widely interpreted as a political step aimed at substantiating Bush's statements to the effect that Dukakis is not well versed in defense issues. Speaking on behalf of Democrats, Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, head of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that the President had heeded not his national security team but a political team of Vice-President Bush. He said he did not believe that they could reach agreement with Bush's political advisers and the head of his electoral campaign.

Criticizes Democrats on SDI

LD0608204588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1940 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Washington, 6 Aug (TASS)—In his latest Saturday radio address U.S. President Reagan has attempted to explain to the Americans why he has decided to veto the bill on military funding for fiscal 1989 which has been approved by Congress.

Although the overall size of the military expenditure approved by Congress—$299.5 billion—scarcely differs from the administration's original request, several of the amendments introduced by the legislators have irritated the White House. For example, Congress has reduced SDI funding from $4.9 billion to $4.1 billion. The bill also demands that the President should strictly observe the ABM Treaty of 1972. Funding for the strategic MX nuclear missiles is reduced.

In this connection Reagan was today fiercely critical of the Democrats in Congress, accusing them of striving for ... "unilateral disarmament." The President stressed that "the bill undermines the might which the United States has so persistently striven to restore". In his address he singled out in particular the question of the "Strategic Defense Initiative", pointing out that "the bill amounts virtually to an open attempt to block" it.

It has emerged from the President's words that the United States is supposed to be arming itself in order to guarantee success at the talks with the USSR on problems of arms control. Reagan accused Congress of attempting "to handcuff the President in our arms reduction talks with the Soviets" and stated that while he remains as President "that will not happen."

As local observers are noting, the address by the head of the White House has shown that, despite positive changes in the international situation, the Republican administration has absolutely no intention of giving up its policy of massive increases in weaponry and militarizing space.

Shultz Notes Improvement in Bilateral Relations

LD0808062488 Moscow TASS in English 0611 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Brasilia August 8 TASS—The Soviet-American relations improved in the past three years, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has stated in an interview with a Brazilian TV company. In his opinion, this process was promoted not only by the policy of glasnost pursued by the USSR. Mikhail Gorbachev's contribution to it is very significant. Shultz said that unbiased and patient discussion of each other's stands permitted the two sides to introduce corrections in the relations between our two countries. He positively assessed the reforms implemented in the USSR. Shultz gave the interview in Rio de Janeiro where he stayed upon the end of an official visit to Brazil within the framework of his Latin American tour.

Sees Continuing Cooperation

LD0608101588 Moscow TASS in English 0958 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Brasilia August 6 TASS—In the course of his talks with Brazil's Foreign Minister Costa de Abreu Sodre, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is currently visiting here, touched in detail upon Soviet-American relations.

George Shultz expressed confidence that the progress, which manifested itself in the Soviet-American relations, would further develop. Shultz noted that the agenda contained the four [as received] main points: The first is arms control, to which the Soviet Union attaches special significance. He noted that the question is now being successfully resolved and the destruction of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles had been started. As far as the strategic missiles are concerned, George Shultz noted that the USA has a stake in completing the talks before the end of President Reagan's mandate. This will be a major achievement for the USSR. The second point, Shultz said, is that of human rights, which is of special significance. He noted that the U.S. side had been very pleasantly amazed since talks had been held that were very rich in contents and productive, including the subjects, which were an absolute taboo in the past. We have made progress that was inconceivable in the past. The third point was that of regional conflicts. There were setbacks in some cases, for example, as regards Central America. In other instances amazing success has been made.

Shultz stressed that he believed that good conditions had been created for ensuring a change in relations with the USSR both in political and trade-economic fields. He said in conclusion that the USSR really has a stake in far-reaching reforms.

China

PRC Official Regrets Dole Amendment

LD0508130788 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Beijing August 5 TASS—China expressed regret and dissatisfaction with the adoption by the U.S. Senate of the Dole Amendment. This amendment, proposed by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, demands that China stop selling ballistic missiles and other types of weapons to Middle Eastern countries.

Zeng Tao, deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress, told XINHUA that the adoption of the amendment by the U.S. Congress was ungrounded interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China. He drew attention to the unfounded nature of the contentions that by selling weapons to Middle Eastern countries China undermines stability in that region of the world.

It is common knowledge, the Chinese leader went on, that the tense situation in the Middle East was generated by the aggressive expansionist policy of Israel. Zeng Tao criticized the United States for large-scale weapons shipments to Israel which practices arbitrary rule and ruthlessness toward Arabs.

China sells an insignficant amount of conventional weapons to those Arab countries which need to have their defence capability strengthened, Zeng Tao said.

PRC Welcomes Negotiations Between Two Koreas

OW0808023188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] A PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a news conference in Beijing that China welcomes the decision of North and South Korea to hold negotiations. He said that China has consistently advocated contacts and dialogue between the two sides of Korea. The spokesman also commented on the preparations for a parliamentary meeting between North and South Korea and on the draft conditions for mutual nonaggression to be discussed at the meeting.

Joint Cooperation in Antarctic Research Noted

OW0508133188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] We will now talk about the cooperation between Soviet and Chinese scientists. In this case, we are referring to a joint Antarctic research program. To work out an agreement on the program, a delegation of Chinese experts, headed by Vice Chairman of China's National Antarctic Research Committee Qian Zhihong, visited our country not long ago. Our station observer Dmitriyev has the following comments in this connection:

On the island of (Waterloo), China's (Changcheng) Station has engaged in research on meteorology, biology, and geophysics for more than 40 years. The station is located in the vicinity of the Soviet (Bellingscotten) station. Naturally, workers of the two stations have come to know each other through contacts and give each other advice and help. Such exchanges are beneficial to both sides in the frigid Antarctic weather. For example, Qian Zhihong, who has worked there many times, said: When we first arrived there, the Soviets offered us great help in transportation and fuels, such as gas and diesel.

China is now planning to dispatch a fifth Antarctic expedition team. In view of past experiences in cooperation, both the Soviets and Chinese working in Antarctica hold that the the time has come for further expansion of the Soviet-Chinese connection in the region.

During their visit to our country, Chinese experts learned about the organizations of Soviet polar region expedition teams and held talks with noted Soviet polar region scientists, leaders of the State Committee for Meteorology, and researchers of the USSR Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Leningrad. In Leningrad, the Chinese guests visited laboratories with very up-to-date facilities and listened to a report on how the stations in the polar regions work under ultra-low temperature and the South Pole's stormy wind. Incidentally, the Soviet experts managed to build under such conditions a permanent ice airfield for heavy aircraft. It has been more than a year since Soviet civil airplanes started to fly between Moscow and the South Pole. Chinese experts also expressed interest in the Caterpillar cross-country vehicle used by the Soviet researchers in Antarctica. At the port of Leningrad, Chinese experts visited the flagship of the Soviet Antarctic expedition fleet, "Academician Fedrov," which just returned from the South Pole.

Soviet Antarctic researchers enjoy high prestige in the world. For example, the first Antarctic expedition team of the Soviet Union set off in 1956. The Soviet Antarctic research covers every field of geoscience, and a great deal of the work is of great importance to the world. It is no coincidence that Antarctica is called the continent of peace, where scientists from 18 countries are carrying out systematic research. The 1959 international accord which bans any military movement in Antarctica guarantees freedom for peaceful research in the region. Both the Soviets and Chinese working in the polar regions maintain that the future of Antarctic research lies in extensive international cooperation. They will work together toward the goal. To this end, they have reached an agreement on the subjects for joint Soviet-Chinese research and exchanges of scientists and scientific information.

Increased Blagoveshchensk, Heihe City Trade

OW0708112088 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Since the beginning of this year, trade volume between Heihe City of China's Heilongjiang Province and Blagoveshchensk City of Amur Oblast has increased rapidly. As of the end of July, the two cities had signed contracts totaling 33.9 million Swiss francs, and more than 70 agreements on economic and technical cooperation.

PRC Participates in Moscow Industry Exhibition

OW0508122988 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] An international exhibition of light industry equipment and technology has opened in Moscow. On display at the exhibition are the newest achievements made by enterprises, organizations, and companies of 23 countries in developing advanced technology and equipment for producing consumer goods. The China Import and Export Company is for the first time taking part in the exhibition. At a press conference on the eve of the opening of the exhibition, (Hulestov), a representative of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed his welcome to China's frequent participation in exhibitions held in the Soviet Union.

He said: We regard the expansion of exchanges between the two countries, such as holding exhibitions, as an important factor for developing the mutually beneficial Soviet-Chinese trade relations and for strengthening Soviet-Chinese economic ties.

PRC Amity Official Discusses Bilateral Ties

OW0708134288 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Report on station reporter's interview with Wu Xiuquan, president of China-USSR Friendship Association; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The China-USSR Friendship Association delegation headed by Wu Xiuquan has left Moscow for Beijing. Before its departure, our station reporter had an interview with Wu Xiuquan. He said:

[Begin Wu Xiuquan recording] At the invitation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, the delegation of the China-USSR Friendship Association arrived in Moscow on 10 July. Besides Moscow, we also visited Leningrad, Riga, and Yalta.

In Moscow we met with Tereshkova, chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and Tikhvinskiy, chairman of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society. [passage omitted]

In Leningrad and Riga, we met and talked with comrades of local soviet societies for friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries and local branches of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society. We also met with responsible local comrades. In the beautiful city of Yalta, besides meeting local leading comrades, we also visited scenic spots and historical sites. Most of the comrades of

the delegation had photos taken there. Wherever we went, we were warmly and cordially received. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for this.

I studied and worked in the Soviet Union in 1925 and in 1930. The experience I acquired in the Soviet Union was very helpful to me on my return home. After the founding of the PRC, I also visited the Soviet Union more than once, but those visits were all brief.

In the past more than half a century, the Soviet Union has undergone important changes. During our 7 days' stay in Leningrad, we visited some memorable places connected with the October Revolution and the great war in defense of the motherland. [passage omitted]

Currently, the Soviet Union is engaged in reform in all spheres. We have seen changes in the people's way of thinking and in the field of production. We visited plants whose directors had been selected by election and universities whose presidents had also been selected by election. We also visited farms which had adopted economic accounting methods in an all-around way. Large-scale water conservancy projects are under construction for farmland.

Not long ago, the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference was held. The Chinese people, with very great interest, are paying attention to the Soviet Union's reform, and notice that many difficulties face the Soviet Union in the course of reform. We expect the Soviet people to surmount their difficulties and achieve success in reform.

Now our visit is coming to an end, and we will soon go home. We will take back the Soviet people's friendly sentiments for the Chinese people. May the friendship between the Chinese and Soviet peoples develop continuously!

China and the Soviet Union are two great socialist neighboring countries. During the course of their arduous revolution and protracted socialist construction, the Chinese and Soviet peoples have always supported and sympathized with each other and nurtured traditional friendship. The Chinese Government and the Chinese people have always treasured this traditional friendship and have made unremitting efforts to develop the friendly relations between the Chinese and Soviet peoples. [passage omitted]

Over the past few years, the relations of friendship and cooperation between China and the Soviet Union have developed continuously and become strong. Friendship organizations of both countries have stepped up their efforts to promote relations between the two countries and the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Soviet peoples.

Not long ago, Chairman Tikhvinskiy led a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society to visit our country and signed in Beijing a 1988-89 plan on cooperation between friendship organizations of the two countries. [passage omitted]

In addition, Hubei, including Wuhan City, my native place where I was born and grew up, and the Republic of Ukraine of your esteemed country, including Kiev City, have restored direct friendship relations. This is another step in developing relations between the two countries.

Currently, I have the honor to be president of the China-USSR Friendship Association, and wish to contribute to strengthening Sino-Soviet friendly relations as long as I live. [passage omitted]

The leaders of the friendship organizations of both countries wish to further develop their relations. I believe that through our common efforts the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will certainly develop further. Please, relay my friendly greetings and those of my delegation to the Soviet people. I also wish your esteemed country prosperity and your people happiness. I wish to see the Chinese and Soviet peoples' traditional friendship develop continuously. Finally, I wish your esteemed country's reform great success. [end recording]

Southeast Asia & Pacific

SRV's Nguyen Van Linh Meets With Gorbachev

LD2007163388 Moscow TASS in English 1617 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU), met in the Kremlin today with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, who is staying in the Soviet Union on vacation.

The leaders of the two fraternal parties paid much attention to Soviet-Vietnamese relations.

They pointed to considerable reserves in the sphere of economic cooperation. They also agreed that a number of specific issues will be studied at government level.

As opinions were exchanged on pressing issues of the international situation, special attention was paid to the situation relating to Kampuchea. [Moscow TASS in English at 2004 GMT on 20 July carries a "corrected version" which adds the following at this point: "It has been developing in the positive direction thanks to the national reconciliation policy consistently pursued by the Government of Kampuchea."]

Nguyen Van Linh reaffirmed Vietnam's intention to return half of the Vietnamese volunteer contingent in Kampuchea back home this year and place the remaining units under the command of Kampuchea. [The "corrected" TASS version adds: "The remaining units

will be pulled out by the end of 1989 or the beginning of 1990 and even earlier in the event of the settlement of the Kampuchean problem."]

Mikhail Gorbachev welcomed this act of good will on the part of socialist Vietnam and expressed confidence that it will evoke an adequate response from all those sincerely seeking a settlement.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are prepared actively to facilitate the defusing of the situation concerning Kampuchea also in the future. A weighty contribution to the resolution of the Kampuchean problem could be made by the People's Republic of China. [The "corrected" TASS version adds: "Nguyen Van Linh reaffirmed that Vietnam is ready to hold talks with China in order to settle the existing differences on the basis of equality and mutual respect."]

The Soviet and Vietnamese leaders pointed to the high significance of the forthcoming "informal meeting" in Indonesia of the four Kampuchean sides and a number of other interested states.

They expressed the hope that this meeting will substantially further the quest for a solution to the Kampuchean problem and will facilitate better mutual understanding between the states of Indochina and ASEAN and improvement in the political climate in South East Asia.

SRV's Vo Chi Cong Receives Soviet Award

LD0608115588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1020 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 6 Aug (TASS)—By decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Vo Chi Cong, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and president of the SRV State Council has been awarded the Order of the October Revolution. He was awarded this high Soviet order for his active participation in the revolution movement, for great and fruitful activity in strengthening all-around cooperation between the USSR and the SRV, and in connection with his 75th birthday.

AAPSO Conference Held in Phnom Penh

LD0708224088 Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Phnom Penh August 7 TASS—The internatioal conference for national reconciliation in Kampuchea, dialogue and cooperation in Southeast Asia has closed here today. The conference sponsored on the initiative of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) was attended by delegations from various countries of the world, including the Soviet Union.

The communique of the conference supports the program for a peaceful Kampuchean settlement put forward by the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The invariable objective of the Kampuchean Government is to prevent the return of the criminal Pol Pot clique to power in the country. This wish shall not be viewed as a source of tension in Southeast Asia. On the contrary, the communique notes, the plan for the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea is evidence of the goodwill of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, their specific contribution to settling the conflict. In the opinion of the participants in the conference, the process which was started by the Bogor discussions will contribute towards developing the relations of good-neighbourliness between the countries of Indochina and ASEAN, will help towards turning that area of the world into a zone of peace and cooperation free from nuclear weapons. The delegates to the conference have declared for eliminating the U.S. military bases in Southeast Asia.

The communique speaks highly of the USSR's proposals directed at ensuring lasting peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

In his concluding address, Muhammed Ghaleb, AAPSO president, expressed confidence that the Afro-Asian Solidarity Movement would be a weighty contribution to a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem and stabilising the situation in Southeast Asia.

MPR Official Views Bogor Talks on Cambodia

LD0608093088 Moscow TASS in English 0901 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Ulaan Baatar, August 6 TASS—The informal Bogor meeting of the Kampuchean sides has become a patent illustration of consolidation of the new political thinking in international relations, the world community's realisation of the need for settlement of disputable questions by political means, said here a representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Mongolian People's Republic.

It is of great significance that most of the parties to the Bogor negotiations were unanimous in the opinion that settlement of the situation around Kampuchea should be based, on the one hand, on the return of the Vietnamese volunteers home, and, on the other hand, on the guarantees that would rule out recurrence of Pol Pot genocide, he said.

The results of the Bogor meeting will not only promote the national reconciliation policy in Kampuchea, but will also make an appreciable contribution to building up mutual confidence between the Indochinese states and the ASEAN member countries, to Southeast Asia's becoming a zone of peace, stability and cooperation, the statement underlines. This will favourably promote consolidation of security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mongolia calls upon all the parties concerned to take a constructive stand and cooperate in the spirit of the Bogor meeting to have a settlement of the situation around Kampuchea that would meet the interests of the

Kampuchean people, the cause of peace and progress in Southeast Asia, said the representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Mongolian People's Republic.

Bogor Talks on Cambodian Issue Assessed
BK0708104588 Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia 1300 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary: "Pol Pot's Crimes Are Unpardonable"]

[Text] All main aspects of the settlement of the Cambodian issue were discussed practically during the recent informal meeting in Bogor involving the four Cambodian factions with the participation of delegations of Vietnam, Laos, and the six ASEAN countries. However, the much-talked-about issue was the interrelation between the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and a guarantee ruling out a possible return of the Pol Potists into power in Phnom Penh. All the participants to the meeting agreed that the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia should only be implemented in the context of a general political settlement conditional on the prevention of the return of the Pol Pot regime to Cambodia and the cessation of foreign military assistance to the antigovernment forces.

In this connection, it should be noted that the Pol Pot group was severely criticized during the 4-day Bogor meeting for its destructive stand which basically obstructed the ratification of a series of important decisions agreed upon and the signing of a concluding communique. The group was also crtiticized for its action which testified to a desire to displace the forces with the goal of seizing power in Phnom Penh after the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, as well as, of course, for its past acts when the bloody Pol Pot regime was on a rampage in Cambodia. Referring to these acts, Prince Sihanouk said in an interview with THE WASHINGTON POST that 90 percent of the Cambodian people, either in Cambodia itself or abroad, truly hate Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and their henchmen. Such emotion is not difficult to understand. This month is the 9th year since the People's Revolutionary Tribunal sentenced the leaders of the Pol Pot regime in Phnom Penh. Based on undeniable proofs, they were found guilty of committing a genocide and sentenced to death in absentia. The criminals, who killed 3 million Cambodians, managed to evade the due and equivalent punishment only because they had fled abroad where they met their protectors.

However, this does not mean that their crimes have been pardoned or forgotten. Almost all Cambodian families are still lamenting their lost relatives. The wounds inflicted by the barbaric Pol Potists on the once prosperous country have not yet fully been healed. We all will never forget the cruelty of the Pol Pot-installed regime in Cambodia. An American, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur, said: We are convinced that the return of the Pol Pot clique to power will be unacceptable to the international community. This is definitely not his personal viewpoint but represents Washington's official stand. In debates at the U.S. Congress, administration officials said that the United States would try to help settle the Cambodian issue by preventing the return of the Pol Potists to power, including the cessation of the delivery of military equipment and the stockpiling of arms at secret arsenals. We hope that this desire is sincere and is not guided by conjectural considerations. Didn't Washington describe the Pol Potists as the so-called independence fighters not long ago?

All this shows that the Pol Pot group is truly isolated. However, there is no sign that its leader wants to lay down arms and step down. Of course, by continuing their path, they will be able to put obstacles in the way of the settlement of the conflict, but they will not be able to hinder positive tendencies. Hun Sen, Cambodian head of government, said upon return from Indonesia: Regardless of the stand of the Pol Potists, we will continue searching for a just settlement of the Cambodian issue in the interests of all the Cambodian people. A similar desire to continue dialogue was also found on the part of other participants to the Bogor meeting. It was jointly agreed that a working group would be formed to make recommendations by December on the convening of a next similar meeting to discuss ways and methods to settle the Cambodian issue.

A statement by the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that the Soviet Union welcomed the consensus reached in Bogor and regarded the informal meeting as a further development of dialogue to find a settlement which would correspond to the aspirations of the Cambodian people and which would encourage the normalization of situation in Southeast Asia. For its part, the Soviet Union, the statement affirmed, is ready along with all the countries concerned (?to contribute to) the prospects of the settlement of the situation around Cambodia in particular and the improvement of the political climate in Southeast Asia in general.

Briefs

Australian Parliamentary Delegation

Vilnius, 7 Aug (TASS)—The stay in Lithuania by a delegation from the joint committee on questions of foreign policy, defense and foreign trade of the Australian Parliament ended today with a conversation in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR. It is led by G. Bilney, chairman of the committee and member of the house of representatives from the Labor Party. The guests are in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. [Excerpt] [*LD0808003188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 7 Aug 88*]

Near East & South Asia

Further on Shevardnadze, Kamentsev Kabul Visit

Shevardnadze, Najibullah Meet

LD0508154088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1453 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, 5 Aug (TASS)—E.A Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, who is here on a working visit, today met with Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan. E.A. Shevardnadze conveyed to the president greetings and good wishes from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

President Najibullah warmly recalled his recent meetings with M.S. Gorbachev in Tashkent and Moscow. E.A. Shevardnadze described the work of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the CPSU Central Committee July Plenum.

President Najibullah gave an assessment of the situation in Afghanistan and the progress in implementing the policy of national reconciliation in the country. A detailed exchange of opinions took place on issues linked with the implementation of the Geneva agreements on a political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan.

In this context, great attention was given to the actions of Pakistan, which is violating in a systematic and serious manner the obligations it agreed to for preventing interference, and which is effectively conniving at international terrorism against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The president was informed about steps being taken by the USSR as a guarantor of the political settlement with the object of ending the violation of the Geneva agreements.

In an examination of the issues of political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan, the sides stated that this was confidently developing and deepening.

E.A. Shevardnadze and President Najibullah exchanged opinions about the results of the work of the third special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. It was noted with satisfaction that the approaches of the two sides coincided on issues of disarmament and ensuring international peace and security.

The conversation took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and N.G. Yegoroychev, ambassador of the USSR to the Republic of Afghanistan, also participated.

E.A. Shevardnadze held a meeting with M.H. Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan. On behalf of the Soviet Government, he was extended an invitation to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Issues of bilateral relations were thoroughly discussed during the ensuing talks. V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, also took part. The state of and prospects for trade and economic links were thorougly reviewed, and emphasis was placed on developing new forms of cooperation—direct links, mixed enterprises, attracting private capital, etc.

The Soviet side confirmed its readiness to furnish the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan with assistance in tackling matters that arise from the return to the country of Afghans who are temporarily outside the national territory.

Plans for long-term trade and economic cooperation were examined, as well as plans for expanded ties in the spheres of culture, education, and science.

The talks were friendly and businesslike in nature. N.G. Yegorychev, ambassador of the USSR to the Republic of Afghanistan, was present at the talks.

E.A. Shevardnadze met with Afghan Foreign Minister 'A. Wakil. During their exchange of opinions, international issues were discussed, and it was stressed that conditions are today arising for additional stimuli to be administered to the positive trends already developing. The ministers noted that the conclusion of the Geneva agreements has shown that a real chance exists to unblock regional conflicts in general. At the same time, they stressed in particular the importance of having those who are a party to these agreements fulfill them. They also emphasized that the continuing interference in the affairs of Afghanistan from the territory of Pakistan is incompatible with the spirit and letter of the Geneva accords. Questions connected with the upcoming 43rd session of the UN General Assembly were discussed as well.

'A. Wakil provided information on preparations for the conference of nonaligned foreign ministers in which Afghanistan will take a most active part.

The conversation took place in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

Shevardnadze, Sharq Talk

LD0508191888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Today Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq met with USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze. On behalf of the Soviet Government Sharq was handed an invitation to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Issues of bilateral relations were thoroughly discussed during the ensuing talks, in which V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, took part. The state of and prospects for trade and economic links came in for detailed subject analysis, and stress was placed on the development of new forms of cooperation—direct links, mixed enterprises, and attracting private capital.

The Soviet side confirmed its readiness to provide the Afghan Government with assistance in tackling matters arising from the return home of Afghans who have temporarily found themselves beyond Afghanistan's borders.

Plans for long-term trade and economic cooperation were examined, as well as for expanded ties in the spheres of culture, education, and science.

The talks were held in a friendly and businesslike manner. N.G. Yegorychev, ambassador of the USSR to the Republic of Afghanistan, was present at the talks.

Shevardnadze Meets With Officials

PM0808101188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meetings in Kabul"]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, is here on a working visit. Today he met with the vice presidents of the Republic of Afghanistan, 'Abdulhamid Mohtat, Muhammad Rafi', and 'Abdul Wahed Sorabi.

During the meeting, the prominent Afghan statesmen, who are actively involved in implementing the policy of national reconciliation, noted that this policy is continuing to gain momentum and enjoys the broad support of the Afghan people. They adduced facts indicating the growing authority of state and presidential power in the country.

For his part, E. Shevardnadze stressed that the Soviet Union fully supports the policy of national reconciliation and the steps being taken within its framework to rally the country's patriotic forces and normalize the situation.

Certain matters pertaining to the development of economic, scientific, and cultural links between the USSR and Afghanistan were discussed.

E. Shevardnadze had a meeting with the leadership of the National Council (parliament) of Afghanistan, Mahmud Habibi and Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, who head the Senate and the People's Assembly (Wolasi Jirgah) respectively—the two chambers of the country's supreme legislative body. In the talks, the leaders of the chambers noted that the Afghan parliament, which resumed its work 2 months ago following an interval of many years, is faced with important tasks in putting the provisions of the country's new Constitution into effect and in drawing up laws and decisions which reflect the peculiarities of the present political situation. They stressed that the parliament was formed on a broad basis, that it represents the very broadest strata of the Afghan people, and that it reflects their aspirations and interests.

E. Shevardnadze wished the Afghan parliament success in its activities.

Conversations were held between E. Shevardnadze and Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Afghan internal affairs minister; and Shanawa Tani, chief of the General Staff of the Afghan Armed Forces. They discussed a number of questions of mutual interest.

E. Shevardnadze also met several governors of Afghan provinces and commanders of Army corps: Lieutenant General N. Olyumi [name as published], V.A. Shinvari, Major General Baranzay, F. Khalekyar, Lt Gen M.A. Delavar, and Maj Gen M. Daud. There was an exchange of opinions on questions concerning Soviet-Afghan cooperation, including the development of direct links betwen Soviet republics, oblasts, and towns and Afghan provinces and towns. They also discussed improving links of this kind and raising their effectiveness.

The meetings took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, met with Muhammad Hasan Sharq, Afghan prime minister.

They comprehensively examined a wide range of questions concerning Soviet-Afghan economic cooperation.

Methods to make direct links between Soviet republics, oblasts, and towns and Afghan provinces and towns more effective and to widen them were discussed, as were business relations with the Afghan private sector.

An accord was reached on signing a long-term program for economic, technical, and trade cooperation for the period up to the year 2000 in the very near future.

The conversation was businesslike and constructive and took place in an atmosphere of friendship and complete mutual understanding.

Taking part in the meeting were Nikolay Yegorychev, USSR ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan; Sultan Husayn, Afghan planning minister; and Muhammad Khan Jalalar, Afghan commerce minister.

Kamentsev, Sharq Hold Talks

LD0608205988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq today met with His Excellency Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, at the Council of Ministers headquarters [in Kabul]. The meeting was attended by Planning Minister Sultan Husayn,

Commerce Minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar, Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan Nikolay Yegorychev, representatives of the Commerce Ministry, and accompanying members from the delegation of His Excellency Kamentsev. They discussed related issues of Afghan-Soviet economic and technical cooperation.

The prime minister reviewed the various aspects of the present economic, technical, and cultural cooperation, especially in the country's current situation. He also viewed important economic issues and the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation. He further referred to the USSR cooperation in all fields with gratitude.

In response, His Excellency Kamentsev expressed the USSR's satisfaction with the expansion and depth of the mutual economic relations and their benefits. He promised that in the current situation of basic importance, the USSR would increase its economic aid and its effectiveness.

Shevardnadze Receives Businessmen

LD0808082188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 7, BAKHTAR—Politburo Member of the CPSU CC, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union Eduard Shevardnadze, and Vladimir Kamentsev, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, made an all sided meet with a group of private entrepreneurs of Afghanistan here today.

In the course of the meeting, it was emphasised that at present the relations between the Soviet organizations and the Afghan commercial circles are growing activity.

At the meeting also it was emphasised that reserves and further possibilities which have been existed [as received], on the basis of mutual interests will extend further.

Joint 'Announcement' Noted

LD0708144888 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

["Joint Soviet-Afghan Announcement"]

[Text] Talks were held in Kabul on August 5-7 between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan; Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister; 'Abdul Wakil, minister for foreign affairs, and other Afghan leaders. Taking part in the talks from the Soviet side were Vladimir Kamentsev, vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Nikolay Yegorychev, USSR ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Basing themselves on the provisions of the Tashkent statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the sides have placed the following on record:

I. [subhead]

The signing of the Geneva accords on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan has been a new phenomenon of fundamental significance in world politics, one that reflected the preparedness and ability of the states involved in an acute and knotty conflict to go beyond the framework of their own interests. The signing of these accords has opened the way to ending bloodshed, eliminating the dangerous seat of regional tension, and settling the problem which has marred the international situation for many years.

The very essence of the Geneva accords and all their contents are evidence that the choice made by the parties to the Geneva accords in favor of political methods—a sensible compromise, a balance of interests—is inseparable from the commitment by each side to act constructively with a sense of responsibility while scrupulously observing all provisions of the documents signed.

The accords drawn up under the aegis of the United Nations Organization and strengthened by its prestige are of a legal status of worldwide significance. The attitude to them is an indication of respect for the opinion of the world community.

II. [subhead]

From the very first day the accords took effect, the Soviet and Afghan sides have fully met the commitments they undertook under those accords. The return home of the Soviet troops, which was envisaged for the first stage, which is to conclude August 15, 1988, is being implemented in a practical manner. The troops have already been withdrawn from most of Afghanistan's provinces. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is doing everything necessary to create a favorable atmosphere for implementing the Geneva accords. Also, appropriate conditions are being created for the return to the country of refugees, who are receiving all-round aid. The government most closely cooperates with the UN machinery for control over the observance of the Geneva accords, and it provides the United Nations with all facilities needed to carry out its responsibilities. The Soviet and Afghan sides favor the question of the release and return home of prisoners of war being settled as quickly as possible, in the spirit of goodwill and humaneness, with the use of all possible contacts and with the mediation of the International Red Cross Committee.

III. [subhead]

At the same time, a source of deep concern is the actions of the Pakistani side, which systematically commits serious and crude violations of the Geneva accords and

encourages interference in Afghanistan's affairs from Pakistani territory. This finds its expression in the sending of weapons and equipment to Afghanistan, and the sending of armed detachments across the border. The camps and bases of the anti-Afghan forces located in Pakistan are not being dismantled. Both the Pakistani side itself and the opposition which enjoys its support are engaged in a fierce propaganda war against Afghanistan. Serious obstacles are being erected to the activities of the UN control mechanism.

All the details of violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords should be properly documented and, in keeping with the accords, relevant information should be turned over to the UN control mechanism.

Should the obstructionist line of the Pakistani authorities continue, this may lead to the loss of the positive essence of the Geneva process under conditions in which one of the main parties to the accords does not observe their main provisions. This situation cannot but make the Soviet Union and Afghanistan draw the necessary conclusions and decide upon their actions if an end is not put to interference in Afghanistan's affairs.

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan also expect that the U.S. Administration, as a country-guarantor of the Geneva accords, will appropriately influence Pakistan and will not encourage it to contravene the letter and spirit of the documents, which the United States also signed.

IV. [subhead]

The sides have expressed satisfaction with the fact that the national reconciliation policy is becoming an increasingly influential factor in the development of the situation both in Afghanistan and around it. This policy is winning growing support from all sectors of Afghan society and firm international recognition.

National reconciliation is embodied in the new coalition organs of power all over the country, in forming the institution of presidential rule, and in creating a representative parliament and a government based on the support of broad sections of the population.

V. [subhead]

Economic ties between the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan are developing for the mutual benefit of the two countries and also possess great potential. The use of these ties necessitates a further mastery of such new forms of cooperation as the setting up of joint ventures, cooperative amalgamations, and direct ties. A promising trend of cooperation is a broadening of trade between soviet organizations and institutions with representatives of Afghanistan's private sector and industry.

Agreement has been reached that in the course of the official friendly visit to the USSR, soon be paid by M.H. Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, a long-term program will be signed for economic, technical, and trade cooperation between the two countries up to the year 2000.

Preparations are successfully underway for a space flight with a joint Soviet-Afghan crew, which makes such a flight possible in a short period of time.

Ties and contacts have been considerably intensified in the fields of culture, the arts, science, and education.

VI. [subhead]

The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan hold concurrent or close stands on the key international issues. They closely cooperate at international organizations and pursue policies for peace and cooperation, internationalizing efforts for disarmament and strengthening security, and resolving other global problems.

The talks held have demonstrated a high degree of identicalness on the stands and approaches of the two countries and their preparedness to strengthen cooperation and interact in the international arena.

Reportage on Troop Withdrawal From Afghanistan

Kabul Pullout To Begin 8 Aug

BK0808003688 Hong Kong AFP in English 2340 GMT 7 Aug 88

[By Bertrand de Saisset]

[Text] Kabul, August 8 (AFP)—Soviet troops are to begin their withdrawal from Kabul on Monday in line with the Geneva accord on Afghanistan, official Soviet and Afghan sources said here Sunday.

It was not known how many of the 20,000 to 22,000 Soviet troops estimated to be stationed in Kabul would be returning home.

A group of foreign journalists were invited to witness the departure of the Soviet units from the capital, following the first announcement of a departure of Soviet troops based in Kabul.

Western diplomats here expressed surprise at the announcement. They had expected that the Soviet troops would withdraw last from the capital, following the pull-out from the provinces.

One diplomat said the problem was to know "what the Soviets are withdrawing" and if it is not just "support personnel."

In any case, this would only be a partial withdrawal from Kabul, one Western expert said, as large numbers of troops were necessary to guarantee the security of the capital.

Diplomats have said they expect to see a "slowdown" in the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan after August 15, when half of the forces are due to have left the country.

The Soviet military has already withdrawn its forces from Jalalabad, Ghazni, Gardez and Qandahar, the country's second biggest city from which the last troops should have departed by the end of this week, according to the Soviet press.

After August 15, Soviet troops will remain in only five of the country's 30 provinces, according to Soviet officials.

Soviet General Lev Serebrov, who would not state his exact function, told foreign journalists Sunday in Kabul that Soviet military zones in the Afghan capital continued to be the target of resistance guerrilla rocket fire.

He said that two Soviet soldiers had been injured Saturday.

Every day, two or three rockets fall on Kabul, a Western diplomat said.

Overnight from Saturday to Sunday, three rockets destroyed several houses, leaving one person injured, an Afghan foreign official [as received] said.

Soviet troops are maintaining the security of Kabul airport but few Soviet troops can be spotted on the streets of the capital.

About 115,000 Soviet troops were stationned in Afghanistan before the withdrawal which began on May 15 and is to be completed February 1989.

Troops Leave Helmand Province

LD0508113988 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 5 TASS—A rally has been held in Helmand Province on the occasion of the return home of Soviet Army units from that southern Afghan province. The rally was attended by representatives of the province's population, the leaders of the province and U.N. observers. In his speech the governor of Helmand expressed on behalf of his compatriots much gratitude to the sons of the Land of the Soviets, who did not spare their lives in assisting the Afghan people to uphold the aims of the April Revolution.

Over the past twenty-four hours another 285 Afghans crossed the Pakistani-Afghan border and returned home, the BAKHTAR agency said. The authorities of Nangarhar Province gave them material assistance and provided them with transport facilities for returning to their villages.

An increasing number of opposition units, realizing the senselessness of further bloodshed, are laying down the arms despite threats from Peshawar. Thus 80 oppositioners went over to the side of people's power in Faryab Province. On behalf of his people the commander of the group announced full support for the national reconciliation policy. As a result of explanatory work by government and party bodies an opposition armed group numbering one hundred men laid down arms in Balkh Province.

Yesterday an extremist secretly took an explosive device into Shahrara [name as received], a crowded district of Kabul. When being planted the mine went off, killing one terrorist and three citizens and injuring another eighteen. On the same day the irreconcilables fired rocket projectiles against Kojaki Township [name as received] in Helmand Province. Four persons, including three children fell victim of that brutal action and several houses were damaged.

This "rocket war" against the country's cities makes the Afghan Government take retaliatory measures. After the recently more frequent cases of fire opened on the capital, Afghan Army units are known to have carried out a successful operation for the capture of a caravan and destruction of a rebel base in Haki Jabbar [name as received] rural district. In the course of fighting weapons and new rocket projectiles for firing from a distance of 25 kilomteres were captured.

In Paghman District Afghan Army units prevented the rocketing of the capital. As a result of the operation for the combing of the locality, eight extremists, 19 rocket projectiles and one recoilless gun were captured. An ammunition and weapons depot was found in Lowghar Province.

Last Units Leave Qandahar

LD0708163588 Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 7 TASS—By TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin:

The last units of the Soviet troops, which were stationed in Qandahar, have left that southern province of Afghanistan and are moving towards the state border of the USSR. After the withdrawal of units of the limited contingent from Qandahar and Helmand, there is now not a single Soviet soldier left in southern Afghanistan. A large group of foreign newsmen arrived in Kabul to cover the process of the return home of internationalist soldiers in keeping with the Geneva accords. They will see with their own eyes that the Soviet Union observes in detail the schedule of the return of its troops home, according to which at least 50 per cent of the contingent will leave Afghanistan by August 15.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan bearing the brunt of the fight against the irreconcilable extremist groups after the pullout of the Soviet troops from a number of the country's provinces are dealing sizeable blows to the enemy. An operation against a group of extremists has been carried out with the active participation of the local population in the border district of Paciro Agam, Nangarhar Province. In the course of fighting the rebels suffered heavy losses. The commander of the group and two foreign advisers to him were badly wounded, a big weapons and ammunition depot has been destroyed. Over the past twenty-four hours Afghan units have carried out successful combat operations against the rebels also in Konar and Laghman Provinces.

Opposition continues losing its "fighters" in clashes between rival factions. Competent authorities of the Republic have registered over the past two days clashes between the groups belonging to various parties in Faryab, Parvan and Kabul Provinces. Up to 20 extremists have been killed. In Sorabi District (Kabul) clashes are continuing until now, assuming an increasingly fierce character. There are numerous casualties among the population of the villages, which are a scene of fighting between the "irreconcilables".

Word has come about a fresh act of terrorism staged by rebels against peaceful civilians. The cities of Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province [as received], again came under rocket fire on Friday. Rocketing killed seven children and two women. Another ten residents were badly injured. According to summary data, nearly 150 persons were killed in the criminal acts staged by opposition in that province in July.

On Saturday more than 350 Afghan refugees returned home from Pakistan, BAKHTAR news agency reports. Most of the returning people are those born in Nangarhar, Qandahar and Laghman Provinces.

Paper Views Qandahar Pullout

PM0508143988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 3

[Lieutenant Colonel A. Oliynik report: "We Will Not Forget You, Qandahar!—Withdrawal of Soviet Troops From Afghanistan Continues"]

[Excerpts] Qandahar, Kabul—Military airmen have an immutable rule: Every combat flight task set by the commander is recorded on magnetic tape, which is preserved until the flight is completed. The helicopter pilots have decided to keep this particular taped record. It contains the order of Pilot First Class Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Ignatov for the last combat flight from Qandahar Province to Moscow. [passage omitted]

The final meetings and handshakes on Afghan soil. These days there are more and more people in Afghan Air Force pilots' uniforms in the settlement which has grown up on the edge of the the airfield. Some come simply to say goodbye to their Soviet friends, while others have already settled into the comfortable air-conditioned timber modules and are coming to grips with equipment in workshops and the diesel and oxygen stations...

"Some of our fliers and technicians have already moved into the very comfortable living quarters of Soviet helicopter pilots," Lt Col A. Hamid said. "Others are waiting their turn. Our Soviet friends are leaving us all their property, everything necessary for daily life and flying. Of course, it is not easy to bid farewell to our comrades in arms who have more than once come to our rescue on combat flights. But we have been diligent students and have actively adopted their combat experience, and we will do everything to ensure the reliable air defense of Qandahar and all of southern Afghanistan..".

Sizzling Qandahar will not be forgotten by our helicopter pilots or by any of those who have performed their difficult service here. Nor will the inhabitants of the province forget our fliers or any of our servicemen. As Lieutenant General N. Olyumi [name as published], governor general of the province, remarked at the ceremonial sendoff, Soviet servicemen have given Afghanistan invaluable assistance, not only militarily but also economically. Soviet helicopters and planes have airlifted hundreds of tonnes of grain, foodstuffs, construction materials, and other essential freight directly from the Soviet Union to the province.

N. Olyumi was recently appointed governor general. He is from the Barakzay [name as published] tribe and grew up here. He is a respected military man in the south of the country. When we met, the general did not conceal the problems in the military-political situation which may occur in southern Afghanistan after Soviet forces withdraw from Qandahar. However, he was not unduly pessimistic in his outlook. "Afghans' eyes are now fixed on Qandahar," Lt Gen Olyumi said. "That is understandable, for the former capital of ancient Afghanistan has always occupied a strategic position in the country. Qandahar's role in the development of the military-political situation is particularly great now, when the difficult process of national reconciliation conducted by the PDPA and the entire left-wing democratic bloc is in progress across the country."

Throughout the years of the undeclared war, the counterrevolutionary leaders have tried to take Qandahar by force and bring it under their influence. Naturally, the opposition is now doing its utmost to try to seize power in Qandahar after the Soviet troops withdraw from the province. It is feverishly trying to combine the disunited armed formations for that purpose. In the Tiraygar [name as published] Mountains, 60 km southeast of Qandahar, a "southern" zone combat-action control center has even been set up with the participation of military advisers from Pakistan and the United States. The psychological warfare is unprecedented in terms of scale and form. Recently, hostile Western radio stations,

fed stories by the opposition and the Pakistani authorities, have been boasting about the capture of the Spin Buldak border settlement and of the whole Arghandab District. But all of this is just another act of provocation. Afghan Army units routed the rebel detachments which tried to capture Spin Buldak under the cover of Pakistani artillery. Mullah Nakib's detachments failed to seize power in Arghandab District, as well.

The aims of those putting out disinformation have long been clear: They are using every means to try to create among the population a sense of lack of confidence in the strength of the country's president and government and in the potential of the national reconciliation policy.

"I can confirm with the utmost responsibility and confidence," the governor general said at the end of the conversation, "that after the Soviet troops withdraw from Qandahar, the entire province will be able to defend itself against all provocations."

End the war, stop the bloodshed... The lives of all honorable Afghan patriots are now based on these cherished aspirations.

"We need peace to build and restore our shattered homes," 'Abdul Wazir, an ordinary Afghan, told me as he gesticulated excitedly. "We need help. I know that many refugees have received free goods from the 'shuravi' [Soviets]. I, for example, have received footwear, blankets, and produce."

As they leave, our units do all they can to help the local population heal the wounds caused by the war. The republic as a whole and Qandahar in particular are receiving great assistance in the form of sponsorship and direct ties. I shall cite just the following facts.

Alma-Ata has sent Qandahar 5,207 tonnes of various goods, including 520 tonnes of construction materials and 120 tonnes of various equipment.

By the time this issue of the paper comes out, the helicopter pilots' airborne convoy will already be crossing the USSR's state border. The columns of motorized riflemen and assault troops who left the province at the beginning of August are also en route for the motherland. There are now no Soviet troops whatsoever in Qandahar or in southern Afghanistan.

Daily on Further Withdrawals

PM0508122188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 8

[Special Correspondents V. Okulov and P. Studenikin dispatch: "Afghanistan: Hot August. Soviet Troop Subunits Leave for Home Today From Qandahar and Konduz"]

[Text] Qandahar—We received a letter from Irkutsk Oblast on the eve of our flight to Kabul. The lines on a page of an exercise book were full of pain: "I do not want to lose my only son to the enemy in a war when this war is virtually over. I fed him and raised him for civilian life... I recently saw on the television our children returning home from Afghanistan. What happiness this is for all of us! I saw them, wept, and was choked with sorrow... We are told that the withdrawal of our troops is continuing. How much longer will it take? Answer a mother!"

...Kabul is always Kabul, and the covering helicopters that fire huge swathes of hot, red rockets to trick the "Stingers" while Aeroflot aircraft are landing are just as familiar as the weatherbeaten adobe buildings of the old city, the white villas and gardens of the prosperous areas, and the swirl of yesterday's Afghan wind.

We hastened to the headquarters of the limited contingent of Soviet forces to find the answer to the question that had been worrying N.I Yuryeva and thousands of other Soviet mothers.

In the 6 weeks since one of us was last in Kabul, and in the year since the other left Afghanistan, there have been no visible changes in the city: There is the usual heat, the gaudy swirl of vehicles, and the noisy crowds of citizens.

"Yes and no," an old friend—the demobilized soldier Khamdula [name as published]—objected. "The insurgent shelling of residential areas has become more frequent, and even on our sacred holiday of 'Id al-Adha the count of victims of extremist crimes increased. Dozens of citizens—old and young—have been killed or injured, several apartment blocks and schools have been destroyed, and mosques have been damaged. My heart bleeds..."

The intensification of the situation around Kabul is linked to Pakistan's continuing support for the armed opposition to the regime, contrary to the Geneva accords. The "intransigent" formations are being intensively supplied with arms and ammunition by the other side.

In mid-July, the Pakistanis handed over 400 antiaircraft weapons supplied by Western countries to representatives of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" at Peshawar airport. The weapons were transferred to a central dump at Fakirabad [name as published] and from there to Afghanistan. The Pakistani guard post at the population center of Burgi (Kurram Agency, North-West Frontier Province) has been turned into a transshipment base for the Afghan extremists. Weapons caravans form up there before leaving for Afghanistan. The guard post's radio station is used to relay communications between the insurgents' headquarters in Peshawar and their detachments operating in the Republic.

Information has just arrived in Kabul that an Islamic Party of Afghanistan combat group operating in the region of Feyzabad has received from Pakistan a caravan

of 10 mobile missile complexes, 20 rockets, recoilless rifles, and mortars. A "terror caravan" of 32 trucks has arrived in Orgun District from the other side...

Similar reports come in every day. What about the government forces? They are putting a stop to the acts of the "intransigents." Recently, we were told at Afghan Army Headquarters that extremist groups have suffered major defeats, particularly in Nangarhar and Zabol Provinces—245 insurgents have been killed and 134 injured. M. Yunis Khalis, one of the "fuehrers" of the Peshawar "Seven," who was making a tour of the villages controlled by his grouping, was also injured.

The increasing shelling of Kabul and certain other cities constitutes an attempt to raise the morale of the armed opposition detachments, which are often engaged in bloody infighting. It also represents a desire to evoke in the peaceful population feelings of confusion, concern, and a lack of confidence in the abilities of the government forces.

There is no doubt that the situation in the country is difficult. However, it is clear there have been no fundamental changes since the Soviet troop withdrawal began, contrary to the propaganda clamor. Despite all the patent violations of the Geneva accords and despite the increased aid, the counterrevolution has failed to implement even one of its schemes for seizing territory that the Soviet troops have left. For instance, Peshawar has laid down several timetables for taking Jalalabad. The extremists' plans to capture the city of Qalat and to cut off Qandahar from Kabul have been thwarted.

Meanwhile, the Soviet troop withdrawal continues and is strictly following the schedule.

A relief map is fixed to the wall in the office of Colonel D. Turlays, department chief at the headquarters of the limited contingent of Soviet forces. There are neither red nor blue arrows on it—this means there are no attacking or retreating units. However, it clearly indicates the location of our garrisons and Afghan garrisons, and the regions in which armed opposition detachments operate. The map shows that the number of our garrisons is diminishing.

"Our troop withdrawal has been under way 2 and ½ months," the colonel said. "We no longer have any men in Ghazni, Jalalabad, Gardeyz, Qalat, Baraki, or Feyzabad. The first phase of the withdrawal ends 15 August, and by that time units comprising half of the limited contingent of Soviet forces will have left Afghanistan..."

[PRAVDA] "However, following President Ziaul Haq's provocative statement alleging that the Soviets had halted their troop withdrawal, certain people in the West have started expressing doubts about whether the USSR is violating the accords."

"The accords will be carried out precisely and within the time period laid down," Lieutenant General B. Gromov, commander of the limited contingent of Soviet forces and Hero of the Soviet Union, stated. "Nobody should have any doubt about that. We have arranged the timetable in such a way that the Afghan Government forces can continue undamaged their mission of defending the motherland and of wrecking the insurgents' schemes. The withdrawal is currently under way in two areas—Qandahar-Herat and Kabul. The troops will leave in convoys from Konduz and Qandahar... The inhabitants of Kushka and Termez will meet them on 11 August. We have opened our doors to UN observers and foreign correspondents in any of our units. Come and look and count! Naturally, those who have completed their military draft service have been discharged to the reserves. And people have arrived to replace them. And this process of replacement will continue until the last day of our stay here..."

Thus, the center of the Soviet troop withdrawal is shifting to the south. We visited Qandahar in different years. One of us remembers the Qandahar of 1980. Back then, Afghan Army units together with our subunits were waging fierce protracted battles in the "green zone"—the Qandahar suburbs. In the maze of small alleyways, pistol shots were answered with machinegun fire. Bombs, shells, and mines went off. The situation was reminiscent of a layered cake: Fortress houses held by the dushmans were blockaded by our men, while they in turn were surrounded by the enemy behind adobe walls...

Soldiers were sometimes left alone in the adobe labyrinths, and nobody knew what lay around the corner—covering fire or a knife in the back.

We last visited Qandahar 1 year ago. Battles were again under way on the outskirts, but desperate firefights sometimes flared up unexpectedly in the city itself. We recall how together with political worker Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Chaban aboard an agitation detachment's armored personnel carrier we turned off the road, went down a narrow lane in a village on the outskirts of town, drove around a burnt tank, crossed a small field of clover, and suddenly saw just 10 meters away a row of soldiers in helmets and flak jackets lying in hastily dug trenches—the frontline had advanced to that point. We met with Guards Private Konstantin Tunchik from Brest Oblast, who was killed a few minutes later before our very eyes. Men led by Guards Senior Sergeant Valeriy Dmitriyev, a former schoolteacher from Chekhurovka village, Voronezh Oblast, then repulsed the insurgents' attack.

That frontline is no more. The military encampment and the hospital with its top-notch medical equipment have already been officially handed over to the Afghan Army. Our servicemen have left everything—houses, service modules, equipment, hardware—to their Afghan friends.

We arrived in Qandahar on the penultimate mail plane. The following day the air route to Qandahar was closed. There was only one way home—to travel the broken, bombed, and heavily shelled road across the searing mountains and deserts in a military convoy to Kushka. A journey of 750 km...

Spokesman Comments on Gen Tsagolov Views

LD0708085588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 6, BAKHTAR—The Western propaganda circles are desperately striving to display the situation distorted in Afghanistan. Exploiting the personal view of the Soviet General Tsagolov published some time ago by OGONEK weekly, the Western media are referring to the Afghan leadership's incapability for defending the country and the people's interests after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Such hostile propaganda campaign of the West by no means conforms to the related facts in the Afghan society and is reckoned as enemy to the cause of peace of the people of Afghanistan.

A spokesman of the Soviet foreign minister reiterated in this connection that the words of the Soviet general under the present Soviet conditions is an ordinary phenomena and the publication of his view is the work of the magazine's editors, not the view of some official sources. The spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry stressed that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is enjoying a good prestige in the Afghan society and the policy of national reconciliation is fully conforming to the people's interests.

General Tsagolov, the Soviet general whose personal views are exploited by Western media has served as an adviser in the Military Academy of Afghanistan in 1981-1984 and had a brief stay in Afghanistan in 1987. Hence his views on the situation in Afghanistan are due to his limited scope of his service here.

TASS Analyst Criticizes Pakistani Leader

LD0508183588 Moscow TASS in English 1555 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov writes:

President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan demanded the resignation of the Afghan Government. Flouting the fundamental norms of international law, the Pakistani president thought it right to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign neighbouring state and to dictate to the Afghan people what kind of a government it ought to have.

In putting forward its demands, Islamabad invokes its own non-recognition of the present Kabul government and its own reluctance to recognise it in the future. But the fact is that it was precisely with the present Kabul government that Islamabad has signed the Geneva accords which are binding for both Afghanistan and Pakistan, and for the accords guarantors—the USSR and the USA. And these accords have to be implemented strictly and unswervingly by all the parties to them, as this is being done by Moscow which is withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan in accordance with the agreed schedule, as this is being done by Kabul which proposes a road to peace and tranquillity, to an end to the fratricidal war, to the setting up of a possibly broader-based coalition government.

But Ziaul Haq does not seem to like that road. Neither does he seem to like the new coalition government in which, under a Kabul proposal, representatives of the opposition groupings, still fighting the present government with arms, would also occupy a worthy place.

He would like to see in the leadership of neighbouring Afghanistan people to his liking. For this, he intends to aid the "Peshawar Seven" to a "victorious end" in its struggle to topple the Kabul government and to take over power in the country.

Openly violating the Geneva accords, Islamabad continues to support the activity of the headquarters of the opposition groupings in Pakistani territory, to assist in supplying the opposition with U.S. weapons, to facilitate the dispatch of detachments from training centers into Afghanistan, and to allow even direct participation of Pakistan's Armed Forces in organising combat operations against the Afghan Army. The setting up, in Pakistani territory, of the "transitional government of mujahidins" was also a most flagrant violation of the Geneva accords. Far from suppressing the activity of that government, official Islamabad encourages it in every possible way.

Utterances by Ziaul Haq and other Pakistani officials about an "ineluctible fall of the present Afghan government", their calls for a more active struggle for a "truly Islamic government without the communists" can only be described as instigation, a desire to prolong the bloodshed and to preserve a pocket of tension in that part of the world. But is it in the interests of the peoples of the region themselves, including the people of Pakistan? The answer can only be "no". This is attested to by the broad movement of the Pakistani public which demands an end to the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, a strict observance of the Geneva accords.

One would like to believe that Pakistan's leaders will finally understand the perils of the road onto which they are pushing their country, for violating the Geneva accords and flouting the norms of international law with impunity cannot go on forever.

Pakistani Arms 'Streaming' to Afghanistan

LD0408184888 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 4 TASS—Armaments and armed units of the opposition continue streaming to Afghanistan from Pakistan. The Geneva accords envisaged that by May 15, the date when the accords go into effect, the Pakistani leadership will end interference in the affairs of the neighbouring country. But this has not happened. The BAKHTAR news agency cites fresh facts which indicate that Islamabad continues violating the obligations it has assumed.

An armed group of 20 persons, members of the Movement for Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, arrived in Kuhmandan [name as received] village of the Charkh District, Loghar Province late in July from Pakistan. The group is armed with mortars, machineguns, a rocket launcher. A consignment of armaments and ammunition was brought on trucks into Kaftar situated 77 km southwest in Kabul. [as received] The trucks were accompanied by rebels. The consignments of armaments included rockets for a group of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. A group armed with two mortars, two large-calibre machineguns, and a rocket launcher arrived from Pakistan in Sar Boland village of the Baraki District, Loghar Province. Convoys with armaments and ammunition for armed units of the opposition belonging to different parties, arrived in Ghurian, Herat Province, in Dehak village, Wardak Province and Shakar Darreh District, Parwan Province.

With the knowledge of the Pakistani authorities the leadership of the armed opposition continues setting up new camps for the training of rebels, even after the signing of the Geneva accords. A camp where 67 people are trained was opened on July 16, 1.5 km away from Kabadian [name as received] District of Peshawar. There are two Pakistani officers among the instructors. Another camp has been operating from July 9 in Ahungari [name as received] District of Peshawar. 90 men undergo military training there. There are four Pakistani officers among the instructors.

TASS Reports Clashes Among 'Rebels'

LD0508133288 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 5 TASS—Bloody clashes between belligerent Afghan armed opposition groups are continuing. According to a BAKHTAR agency report, fifteen extremists carrying property plundered from the population hit mines planted on a mountain path in Najrab [name as received] District of Kapisa Province by rebels from a rival group.

Bagram area, Parvan Province, was a scene of armed clashes between detachments of the organization of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan and the Islamic Society of Afghanistan. As a result of the clashes four persons were killed and six were injured. The commander of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan group was taken prisoner by the rival group. Reports also came on clashes between anti-government units in Konduz, Sar-e Pol, Takhar and Kabul Provinces. According to preliminary data nearly 40 rebels were killed. Characteristically, the clashes were most frequent between detachments of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan and the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, the most extremist Afghan opposition groups.

Tensions continue running high also in relations between various rebel groups in the camps in Pakistan's territories. Thus in a camp near Peshawar, six persons were killed and nine wounded in a clash.

Kabul Issues Statement on Danger to Diplomats

LD0708130388 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 7 TASS—A representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan has made a statement in connection with the departure from the country of a number of employees of diplomatic missions of some Western states and their families, which led to a new anti-Afghan propaganda campaign the BAKHTAR news agency reported. The heightening of subversive activities of the armed opposition, the firing of missiles at towns, including Kabul, the continuing interference into Afghanistan's internal affairs on the part of Pakistan, which thereby violates the Geneva agreements, have triggered off rumours on instability of the situation in the Republic of Afghanistan, the statement underlines.

The Foreign Ministry's representative firmly denounced the extremists' inhuman activities, resulting in deaths of innocent people, and censured Islamabad's irresponsible approach to compliance with the Geneva agreements. The Armed Forces of the Republic are taking the necessary steps, he said, and captured recently new jet shells with a range of 20-36 km.

In accordance with the recognized international laws which ensure diplomatic immunity of diplomatic mission employees and members of their families in the host country, the Republic of Afghanistan has taken additional steps for their safety. During the period of nine years of the undeclared war none from the foreign mission employees and members of their families were affected.

The representative of Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry qualified as provocative the actions of some Western countries to reduce a certain number of diplomatic employees and their families, and also proofless distortion of safety conditions in Kabul on the eve of the completion of the withdrawal of 50 percent of the Soviet troops.

In conclusion the Afghan representative has demanded that those countries, proceeding from a sense of humaneness, should denounce Pakistan the actions of which lead to continued suffering of innocent people from firing. [sentence as received]

BAKHTAR Cited on Western 'Propaganda'
LD0608125288 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 6 TASS—The Western mass media have recently launched a broad propaganda campaign spearheaded against the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The aim of that campaign is, as before, to try and discredit relations between the two countries, says the commentary issued here by the BAKHTAR agency.

In citing isolated facts or pronouncements by individuals detached from the general context, the Western propaganda machinery uses these "realities" to the detriment of the national reconciliation policy, counter to the provisions of the Geneva accords. They are thus trying to change the situation in Afghanistan.

Quoting one of the leaders of Jamiyat-e Eslami, the Voice of America said the other day that the Soviet troops disguised as mujahidins are allegedly using toxic agents against Afghans. This is done in order to instill hatred among the population in the "champions of Islam". The aim of that subterfuge of the "irreconcilable" opposition is to cause distrust in the Soviet Union which has always assisted our country, the BAKHTAR agency notes.

The USSR not only assists our people in upholding the country's independence, but also helps towards strengthening the economy and ensuring a rise in the living standards of the population. We are confident, the agency continues, that no rumours can distort the real situation. While being aware of the real intentions of the irreconcilables, we declare that by placing stake on rumours, opposition is thus trying to divert attention of the people from its sordid deeds. Imperialism and reaction hbave already used such devices in the past. But history has shown who, in fact, used toxic agents against the Afghan people, the commentary says in conclusion.

Paper Interviews Afghan Guard Commander
PM0408134188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Aug 88 First Edition p 3

[Dispatch by APN Correspondent V. Ivanenko for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "Guard and Guardsmen"]

[Excerpt] Kabul—A new component of the Afghan Armed Forces—the Guard—began to be formed in March this year. To be fair it should be noted that it is only by stretching a point that it can be called new. A small Guard existed in Afghanistan in previous periods of the country's history. But later, and in my view undeservedly so, it was forgotten. New, far from simple, times then ensued in the country's history. And now, under a directive from the president and a decision of the supreme high command headquarters, the rebirth of the Guard in Afghanistan has begun.

...Despite the fact that the checkpoint of the Guard unit, which had been notified of the journalists' arrival, allowed our vehicle to pass through unimpeded, a little further on we were vigorously stopped by a traffic controller wearing red and white armlets and aiguillettes. Upon learning the purpose of our arrival, he indicated precisely the direction we should take. On the unit's territory, what was first of all obvious was the tidiness of the layout and the smartness of the soldiers and officers. We were received in a small oval office by Lieutenant General Mukhammad Afzal Ludin [name as published], the Guard commander—a tall, hospitable man in a uniform somewhat unusual for the Afghan Army. The first question was why the Guards were formed.

"Our main aim," Lt Gen M.A. Ludin said, "is to defend and ensure the safety of the center of the revolution—Kabul city—and also to react promptly to a change in the situation in other parts of the country. With the signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, favorable conditions in international law arose for halting the armed conflict in our country. However, and it came as no great surprise to us, Pakistan is violating the Geneva accords by continuing to supply the Afghan 'intransigents' with a large quantity of weapons and ammunition. And this can mean only one thing: the possibility of a new outbreak of hostilities on Afghan territory. The Guard units which are now being created will possess and already do possess great mobility and firepower, which enables them to promptly resolve their duties."

"Could you describe how recruitment to the Guard began and how it is proceeding?"

"When it was decided to create the Guard, we performed the relevant explanatory work. About 20 soldiers in the uniform of the new Guard were sent to the provinces with the mission of agitating for recruitment in the Guard. Overall, we have no shortage of people wanting to join. The majority of Guardsmen are volunteers. They come from all categories of troops, from the Ministry of State Security, and from the civil service. There are very many peasants from the mountain villages, young people from the Democratic Organization of Youth of Afghanistan, as well as women. In general, there are many applications from young women to serve in the Guard, but we have not yet decided what to do with these applications. There is no getting rid of the boys, especially those from children's homes. One young boy named Lale [name as published] from a children's home recently burst into the unit and begged to be accepted. "At least as a signalman," he asked. We refuse to recruit these boys and allow them to study for the time being.

However, we are already thinking of introducing preparatory courses for boys and of assuming patronage over several children's homes. Let the boys study military specialities, and then when they are of draft age, they can join the Guard."

"What difficulties are you experiencing in forming the Guard units, and have they already been baptized in battle?"

"You should be well aware that the formation of new military units, no matter where they might be—in the USSR or in Afghanistan—is always connected with some organizational difficulties. In our country, these difficulties are aggravated by the country's underdeveloped infrastructure, which is complicating the delivery of equipment and personnel. There is a shortage of specialists with specific military specialities, although we are resolving this problem quite successfully with short-term courses for future specialists. In addition, soldiers who have already served their term of military service, including tank crewmen, artillerymen, and signalmen, and persons who have other military specialities and have already "had a sniff of gunpowder," have recently been coming to us. As for the Guardsmen's participation in hostilities, I shall merely say that they have already had time to show their best side and have not yet lost a single battle. Their main strength lies in their combat morale. But it is better if you speak with them yourself about this. [passage omitted]

Iran-Iraq Cease-Fire Terms To Be Announced

LD0808040388 Moscow TASS in English 0357 GMT 8 Aug 88

["Urgent—Iran and Iraq Agree on Ceasefire Terms"—TASS headline]

[Text] New York August 8 TASS—U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in New York that Iran and Iraq had determined ceasefire terms in their eight-year-old war, ASSOCIATED PRESS reported.

Perez de Cuellar said he was going to declare the ceasefire tomorrow and added that he had already reported to the U.N. Security Council that the two sides had agreed to accept a ceasefire followed by direct talks under his auspices.

TASS on Hope for Peace

LD0808123488 Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 8 TASS—By a TASS diplomatic correspondent:

The positive changes in the Iran-Iraq conflict which are in the offing, inspire the hope that the year 1988 will be the last one in the tragic chronicle of the Iran-Iraq war. A real chance emerged to transfer the Iran-Iraq war to the channel of a political settlement after Iran officially declared its recognition of Resolution 598 of the U.N. Security Council. Now the main task is both to preserve and to consolidate the positive dynamics in an Iran-Iraq settlement.

A ceasefire will be undoubtedly the first important move, since it is hardly possible to conduct any fruitful talks under the conditions of continuing combat operations at the front. All other provisions of Resolution 598 should also be translated into life, following a ceasefire. Time periods for their implementation can be defined during direct contacts between representatives of the two warring sides under the aegis of the U.N. secretary general.

The Soviet Union believes that at the present pivotal moment it is very important to act in a responsible way and to create an appropriate favourable situation for the earliest fulfilment of Resolution 598. At present it is too early to count on an instantaneous success. Some difference still persists in the approaches of the sides to questions pertaining to practical implementation of the U.N. resolution. The two sides are also labouring under the burden of mutual mistrust and suspicion. The protracted war brought much suffering to the peoples of Iran and Iraq. Of course it is impossible to forget all this in an instant. But time should not be lost, and the sides should take the emerging chance to untie the strong knot of Iran-Iraq differences and disputes. For this purpose the leaders of the two countries need a political will and readiness to come to compromises and mutual concessions.

It is to be hoped that the tragic page in the history of relations between Iran and Iraq will be closed for good, and the peoples of the two countries will be able to switch over all their possibilities and resources to peaceful development.

Sub-Saharan Africa

U.S. Suppliers Give Mozambique Rebels Computers

LD0708105288 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Washington August 7 TASS—The U.S. business circles are supplying bandits from the so-called Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) with computers and newest communication facilities. The newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST reports that a cargo with such equipment has recently been illegally taken from the United States to the MNR headquarters in the Mozambican Province of Sofala. "The parcel" was accompanied by a WASHINGTON POST correspondent and correspondents from THE NEW YORK TIMES and NEWSWEEK. These are systems which enable rebel groups to have communication between themselves on the basis of portable computers and radio systems, fed from solar batteries, writes THE WASHINGTON POST. Besides, this equipment will be used to transmit MNR leaders' reports to a certain command post, which is in the Republic of South Africa.

The article in THE WASHINGTON POST provides new evidence of the unending interference by the Pretoria regime's overseas allies into internal affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique. A few days ago the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES printed an interview of its correspondent John Battersby with MNR leader Afonso Alacama, secretly taken on the Mozambican territory in the course of a trip by a group of American journalists. As was reported by the news agency of Mozambique, the trip was arranged by the ultra rightwing organization "Freedom Incorporated" with the assistance of the authorities of the Republic of South Africa, which thereby violated for yet another time the terms of the agreement on non-aggression and good-neighbourliness, concluded with the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Botswana President Reportedly Injured in Crash
LD0808093688 Moscow TASS in English 0921 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] London August 8 TASS—President Quett Ketumile Joni Masire of Botswana was wounded when his plane was forced to make a crash-landing in Angola, reports the REUTER agency, referring to the BOTSWANA PRESS AGENCY (BOPA). The crash-landing was caused by an explosion in an engine of the jetliner which was at an altitude of over 10,000 metres. The president was brought to a hospital in Luanda, the Angolan capital.

BOPA reports that the Botswana minister of external affairs and the minister of works and communications who were aboard the presidential plane, were also wounded. Nothing is said about the cause of the explosion.

CPSU Group Attends Burkina Faso Festivities
PM0708153 88 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Guests of Burkina Faso"]

[Text] Ouagadougou, 4 Aug—A Soviet delegation headed by V.S. Astrauskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Burkina Faso Wednesday at the invitation of the Popular Front to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the August Revolution.

The delegation was met at Ouagadougou International Airport by Jean-Baptiste Lingani, member of the Popular Front Coordinating Committee and minister of popular defense and security, and other officials.

Central Committee Greets Zimbabwe's Mugabe
LD0708105688 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 7 TASS—The CPSU Central Committee has sent heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the party to Robert Mugabe, president and first secretary of the Zimbabwe African National Union—Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), the Central Committee and all the activists of the party.

In the grim years of colonial and racist domination, the message says, ZANU-PF started the struggle for independence and forming an alliance with other patriotic forces, led the Zimbabwean people to victory.

After becoming the ruling party, ZANU-PF worked out its own concept of the country's development which combined socialist orientation with the thorough taking into account of historic, social and national characteristic features of Zimbabwe.

The message says that Soviet Communists highly appreciate the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties and countries. They point out with satisfaction the identity of approaches of the CPSU and ZANU-PF to a number of cardinal problems that concern the whole of humanity, such as the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe, the saving of modern civilization, the overcoming of backwardness and the creation of a comprehensive system of international security.

Fourth Round of Talks on Angola Observed
LD0608223088 Moscow in Portuguese to Africa 1830 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] The fourth round of the quadripartite talks between Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States on the normalization of the situation in southwestern Africa has ended in Geneva. This is what our commentator Vladimir Grigoryev writes:

A few days ago in a commentary on the Geneva talks I questioned the justification for the hopes pinned on the new round. I assumed that the Republic of South Africa's unrealistic proposals in reality meant [word indistinct] and the lack of ethics on the part of South African foreign Minister Roelof Botha, who by breaking the confidentiality of the talks could bring them to a deadlock. But I was wrong, and I am pleased that I was wrong. The Angolan and Cuban representatives, showing great firmness and coolness, did not abandon the talks. And now as shown by the communique that has been issued, the results are described as positive and productive.

I would like to recall the basis of the problem: At the beginning of the Geneva talks, Pretoria put forward the so-called new proposals for normalization. But in reality it was an attempt to corner Angola and Cuba and to impose Pretoria's conditions on their representatives. As many diplomats and observers commented, despite great indignation over Pretoria's tactics, the representatives of the two countries took a constructive attitude toward the talks, and its extension for 1 more day was described as a positive sign.

In the 3 August joint press communique regarding Pretoria's new proposals, the Angolan and Cuban representatives stressed that they were not trying to be the winners at the talks, but that they would not be indifferent in view of the violation of the most basic rules of talks.

Many consider that Pretoria's new proposals are a good diplomatic move, but even the QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS—a more than reactionary French paper—stressed that the main aim of that move was to blame the other side if the talks ended without results. This initiative had other objectives, the paper stressed, to clarify the position of the other sides and to throw a stone on the Angolan-Cuban field [jogar uma peora no campo Angolano-Cubano]. In any case, the obvious provocation did not succeed. And this is not surprising. Life itself imposes the need for a peaceful solution to the crisis in southwestern Africa, and this is exactly what Angola and Cuba are calling for. Their flexible and above all realistic proposals are well known. Their aim is really to facilitate the way leading to solutions acceptable to all sides.

Plans for the peaceful normalization of the situation in southern Africa have been put forward and will continue to be put forward in the future. The main thing is that each side in the talks, if it really wants certain agreements, seeks compromises instead of trying to steer the talks to one side. The Angolan and Cuban position cannot but be respected. Their representatives have once more given proof of their constructive attitude toward the talks.

In the meantime they have to face great difficulties created by Pretoria and have had to fight the U.S. position, whose representative is mediator in the quadripartite talks. The Angolans and Cubans went to Geneva with their own proposals on the timetables for the cessation of military operations and the establishment of definitive peace. But, respecting the (?pace) of the talks they withdrew various problems from the agenda. Acting with a sense of integrity and responsibility, they [word indistinct] Geneva its logical end.

On Monday, 8 August, the coordinated declaration on the results of the Geneva talks will be published in the capitals of the countries involved. In the opinion of informed diplomats and observers, the date of a ceasefire could be given. It would be highly desirable for it to be so. The undeclared war against sovereign Angola has depleted the country of its strength and resources. Today, yesterday, and the day before, what the Angolans have wanted most is peace to live and work in harmony.

This is also the wish of the Namibians, whose country racist South Africa continues to occupy.

According to what Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said recently, the Angolans would very much like agreements providing peace and stability for Angola and Namibia to be signed this year, and later other treaties enabling the region to become an area of peace, free development, and cooperation.

It is obvious that the door is open to the solution of one of the most complex and prolonged regional conflicts. Now the main thing is the political will of all sides, their readiness to go through that door. Geneva has become a proof that there is a way out, even out of a deadlock, concludes our commentator Vladimir Grigoryev.

East Europe

MSZMP Propaganda Officials Visit USSR

PM0508152188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A group of Hungarian party workers headed by J. Andics, chief of the MSZMP Central Committee Agitation and Propaganda Department, was in Moscow 1-4 August in accordance with the plan for party ties between the CPSU and the MSZMP. Consultations were held at the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department on questions of the further deepening of ideological cooperation between the two fraternal parties. There was also an exchange of experience of propaganda work during the implementation of the decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the all-Hungarian party conference. The MSZMP workers familiarized themselves with the practice of restructuring the activity of the mass media and visited the PRAVDA editorial office, the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and TASS.

Berecs, Andics Interviewed

LD0308195188 Budapest MTI in English 1829 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, August 3 (MTI)—Janos Berecz, member of the HSWP PC and CC secretary and Jeno Andics, head of the HSWP CC department of agitation and propaganda gave an interview in Moscow to the MTI correspondent.

As reported, Janos Berecz, who spent his holidays in the Soviet Union met Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the CPSU CC PC and CC secretary, Tuesday. At the meeting Jeno Andics was also present, who also had discussions with the competent organs of the CPSU CC and the leaders of the Soviet press in the Soviet capital.

The general ideological cooperation programme elaborated a year ago and the situation of the Hungarian-Soviet party relations was discussed with Aleksandr Yakovlev, said Janos Berecz. The programme has not yet been signed but probably will be when Comrade Yakovlev visits Hungary this autumn. The programme deserves updating because in the past year several changes have occured in our countries, I refer to the national party conferences, the planned reform of the system of political institutions, and the opening of the way to socialist pluralism. Even if the programme is not signed, its content in part is put into practise. The

Hungarian edition of MOSKOWSKIE NOWOSTY was, for example, envisaged. The other topic which was discussed is the definition of today's socialism, because socialism has undergone profound changes in both countries regarding theory, ideology and practice.

With regard to the economic reforms, he said in reply to a question, we have overtaken the Soviet Union. The reform of the system of political institutions is accomplished in a parallel way in both countries, which could be mutually stimulating. There are, certainly, questions in which approaches are different, such as the role of the parliament. The Soviets see the role of the parliament from a different angle as we do and one reason is tradition. We introduced the multiple candidate system in the elections and we have some experience in the field. There is still a difference in that they are to make a personal union in the major posts, which we by no means do. Even if there were a proposal in this direction I would vote against it. The performance of the party secretary should not be gauged by being elected or not for a council presidency, but whether he or she is found to be fit for the secretarial work within and by the party. In the Soviet Union the reduction of the size of the apparatus has received priority. Among the socialist countries the Hungarian apparatus is the smallest with regard to ratio. It makes up less than 1 percent of the membership.

—Was the Hungarian-Romanian relation discussed?

—We always talk of the burden of the Hungarian-Romanian relation and that the Hungarian public is extremely upset by the situation of Hungarians in Romania.

Jeno Andics said that both countries are out for a greater role of publicity and relations between journalist associations and the mass media will be strengthened.

We have to provide each other with reliable news. It should also be made possible for critical debates to be carried on, for instance through TV links which are so popular in the Soviet Union. A multitude of opinions should exist, facts of reality should be looked at, and not the official stance expected, emphasized Jeno Andics.

Bulgaria's Zhivkov Meets With 'Arafat

LD0608100388 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Sofia, August 6 TASS—General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Todor Zhivkov and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasir 'Arafat have welcomed the enactment of the Soviet-American treaty on elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles. At a meeting held in Varna they underlined the significance of the proposals of the Warsaw Treaty member states, which are aimed at reduction of troops and conventional armaments in Europe, consolidation of measures for building up confidence and security in the continent.

They expressed the identity of stands on a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict, with the full withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the 1967 occupied Arab lands being its most important prerequisite. The convocation of an international conference with the participation of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, and also of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, is the most efficient mechanism of settlement of the conflict, the participants in the meeting noted.

PZPR Leaders Send Thanks for Jubilee Message

PM0708133988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[Message of thanks for rebirth jubilee congratulations from Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of State, and Zbigniew Messner, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers: "To the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] On behalf of the PZPR Central Committee, the Polish Councils of State and Ministers, and the Polish people and on our own account we express cordial gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers for the congratulations and wishes on the 44th anniversary of Poland's rebirth.

We were highly gratified to receive your high assessment of the activity of the PZPR, the allied parties, and all the Polish people's patriotic forces—activity that is aimed at bringing about radical economic, social, and political transformations in our country that are close to or coincide with the aims and tasks of restructuring in the Soviet Union. We receive with gratitude your assessment of Poland's contribution to Warsaw Pact activity and Polish efforts to strengthen peace in Europe and worldwide. The alliance and friendship linking Poland and the Soviet Union are acquiring a qualitatively new nature. They are based on a common philosophy of the building of a modern socialist society and the bold innovative quest for ideal ways of developing it. The exceptionally fruitful results of the recent official friendly visit to Poland by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, are evidence of that.

We are profoundly convinced that the cooperation between Poland and the USSR, based on the principles of equal rights, independence, and partnership, will continue to develop for the good of our peoples and in the interests of the entire socialist community. For our

part, we would like to convey to you, esteemed comrades, and to the Soviet people our cordial greetings and best wishes in implementing revolutionary restructuring in all spheres of your great motherland's social and economic life.

Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of State

Zbigniew Messner, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers

CPSL's Janak Interviewed on State of Society

PM0308101588 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Jul 88 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Ignac Janak, first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, by APN correspondent in Bratislava Aleksandr Kuranov: "Credit Repaid With Trust. A Conversation With I. Janak, First Secretary of the CPSL Central Committee"; date not given—first two paragraphs are SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] In April of this year a CPSL Central Committee plenum elected Comrade Ignac Janak to the post of Central Committee first secretary. Prior to this he had worked for 15 years as first secretary of the West Slovak CPSL Regional Committee and during the last year as CPSL Central Committee secretary. Comrade I. Janak is 58.

At the request of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Aleksandr Kuranov, APN correspondent in Bratislava, met with the first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee and asked him to answer a number of questions.

[Kuranov] The Seventh and Ninth CPCZ Central Committee Plenums raised the tasks of restructuring sociopolitical and economic structures and ensuring the further democratization of society. Could you tell us about the progress of these processes in the Slovak Socialist Republic?

[Janak] First of all I would like to emphasize that the CPCZ is the initiator and driving force in the restructuring effort in our country. Pressing problems of the acceleration of the republic's economic and social development are currently being tackled under the party's leadership and with the broad participation of the working people.

Many problems have accumulated in our country, both in the economy and in the social sphere. Planned tasks in production intensification are not being fully met, one in three enterprises has failed to fulfill state targets, the standard of many Slovak goods is far below world standards, and there are distortions in the development of the social sphere.

Not everyone has proved sufficiently ready for the restructuring. This applies in particular to a considerable section of the leadership component. On the other hand, the measures that are being implemented to further democratize the life of our society, the party's honest and open policy, and both the purposeful implementation of long-term plans and the solution of the vital current problems have revealed the working people's growing faith in the transformations launched by the party and have led to a considerable rise in people's activeness.

This was graphically demonstrated, for instance, during the nationwide discussion of such important recent documents as the draft laws on the state enterprise and the cooperative system, the amendment of the labor law, and a number of others. All of us, party and state apparatus officials, must persistently learn to work with people in present-day conditions because frequently it is their proposals which contain the most acceptable solutions to pressing problems.

However, the opponents of socialism are trying to exploit for their own purposes the process of restructuring and the expansion of democratic principles in the life of society which goes hand-in-hand with it. With the help of certain circles in the West they are trying to muster opposition forces which would operate outside the framework of the National Front and to create an atmosphere of political and social tension in the republic.

To this end they are exploiting for their purposes the religious sentiments of a certain section of our compatriots, as well as international relations and certain factors which are part of the country's life at the present stage—such as central institution staff cuts. We seek to respond to such phenomena in the appropriate manner—for instance, with the help of our mass information and propaganda media.

[Kuranov] Which questions pertaining to the economic and social development of Slovakia do you regard as of key importance at present?

[Janak] The development of the Slovak national economy as an integral part of the unified Czechoslovak economy. During the Eighth 5-Year Plan (1986-1990) national income in the Slovak Socialist Republic is to increase 23-25 percent. The rate of improvement of output quality is to reach almost double the indicators achieved during the previous 5-year period. It is planned to increase the volume of industrial production by 18-20 percent, of construction by 10-11 percent, and of agricultural production by 8-9 percent.

The results of the work in 1986-1987 have even produced a certain overfulfillment of the planned social product growth rate.

We are now faced with the task of implementing serious structural changes in production organization and in "supplier-consumer" relations and of making further efforts to enhance efficiency and quality. The timely utilization in practice of modern scientific and technical achievements remains a topical issue.

The new laws on the state enterprise and the cooperative system, whose first stage came into force 1 July this year, are to play an important role in this process. Work on further laws and documents which are designed to provide the legal basis for restructuring is under way. This will facilitate the gradual transition by 1990 of all enterprises and agricultural cooperatives to full economic independence, economic accountability, and self-financing, with the simultaneous consolidation of democratic principles in management.

However, the main aim of the party's entire economic and social policy is not just the implementation of the outlined targets and programs, of course, but a consistent and steady improvement of the working people's living standards. For instance, during the years of the current 5-year plan the monetary incomes of the Slovak population are to increase by more than 10 percent, and average monthly wages will total approximately Kcs 3,000. Around 185,000 new apartments will be built (the population of Slovakia now exceeds 5 million—A.K.). In accordance with the wishes of the working people serious attention is being paid to the protection of the environment. More that Kcs 6 billion have been allocated for this purpose in this 5-year period.

[Kuranov] What new forms and methods in the development of cooperation between the CSSR and the USSR could you mention?

[Janak] Economic, scientific, and technical cooperation with the USSR is, without exaggeration, of tremendous importance for the Slovak economy. To cite just one example: Fifty percent of our output exports to socialist countries go to the Soviet Union. Moreover, goods produced within the framework of specialization and production sharing with Soviet enterprises and sectors account for one-third of our exports.

New forms of cooperation between our countries' specialists are developing successfully of late. For instance, a joint laboratory has been set up at the Nitra livestock raising scientific research institute, the "Robot" science-and-production association has been established in Presov, and a central laboratory for CEMA country scientists devoted to the creation of artificial intelligence has been established in Bratislava. Preliminary agreement has been reached to organize a joint agricultural enterprise in Saratov Oblast.

[Kuranov] In the wake of the 19th party conference, work is now under way in the USSR to improve the work of party and state organs, to democratize social life, and to wage an active struggle against bureaucracy. How is the CPSL organizing its work at present?

[Janak] Intensified monitoring of the implementation of adopted decisions is to play an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of party organs' work at the current stage. This still represents the Achilles heel of many of our organizations from grassroots to central level.

Therefore, we regard the ability to maintain day-to-day contact with people and to conduct a frank and mutually useful dialogue with them as of paramount importance in the work of every party organ, rather than its ability to take minutes or provide statistical information about every aspect of life.

Our recent report-and-election campaign has graphically demonstrated that there are still quite of few primary organizations where Communists are afraid of self-criticism and prefer flattery. And that in a number of other organizations people are still incapable of independently analyzing the problems that are arising, making a proper political assessment of them and... ariving at the appropriate decision.

During the latest report and election campaign there has been a noticeable turnover of cadres in our party organs. For instance, 43 percent of regional party committee staff, 32 percent of district party committee staff, and 20 percent of primary organization bureau staff have been replaced. One in three CPSL regional and district committee secretaries has been replaced. Together with the working people's collectives they now face the difficult task of renewal.

West Europe

Akhromeyev Meets Touring Finnish Forces Leader

PM0708131988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Touring the Country"]

[Text] On 3 August General J. Valtanen, commander in chief of the Finnish Defense Forces, who is paying an official visit to the Soviet Union, went to the Kantemir Guards Tank Division named for Yu.V. Andropov, where he familiarized himself with the personnel's life, everyday activities, and combat training. Army General K.A. Kochetov, commander of the Moscow Military District, greeted the guest and provided explanations.

Gen J. Valtanen was accompanied by Colonel General S.A. Dikov, deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff.

On 4 August Gen J. Valtanen, commander of the Finnish Defense Forces, who is paying an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, left on a tour of the country.

The Finnish guest was seen off at Sheremetevo Airport by Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev and other officials.

The sendoff party included H. Talvitie, Finnish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR.

Gen J. Valtanen is being accompanied on his tour of the country by Col Gen S.A. Dikov, deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff.

The state flags of Finland and the Soviet Union were hoisted at the airport, an honor guard of troops from the Moscow garrison was formed on the airfield, and the two countries' national anthems were played.

The Finnish guest arrived in Kiev the same day.

Kohl Comments on Bilateral Relations

LD0608002388 Moscow TASS in English 2300 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Bonn August 6 TASS—Chancellor Helmut Kohl favoured developing cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the USSR and laying sound foundation for West German-Soviet relations. Speaking in an interview with ARD television, he stressed that a possibility existed now to attain that goal.

The point at issue was that East-West relations had markedly improved, the head of the FRG Government said. A treaty to ban medium- and shorter-range missiles was signed and the first such missiles had been destroyed recently in the Soviet Union. No doubt, he continued, more proposals on disarmament would be forthcoming. Consultations continued in Vienna between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty on conventional weapons, and they would hopefully produce a mandate for the talks on that problem, the chancellor added.

According to Kohl, the Soviet Union realised that the FRG was an important partner for it. If the two sides sought to develop relations in all areas, it could be achieved. The chancellor favoured extending cooperation with the USSR in the economic sphere, and agreements on cooperation in the field of nature conservation, health care, cultural and humanitarian sphere.

Transport Minister on Agreement With Turkey

LD0708222888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The USSR and Turkey have signed an agreement on establishing motor vehicle communication. Our correspondent asked RSFSR Deputy Motor Transport Minister (Arkadiy Andreyevich Sukorov) to speak about how this agreement is being put into practice:

[Begin recording] [(Suvorov)] Both sides are interested in taking measures to ensure that a transport organization will start operating prior to the official ratification of the agreement. For this purpose, a meeting was held with the Turkish side 2 weeks ago to discuss and draw up plans for organizing motor communication via a pass at the Soviet-Turkish border. Specifically, it is the question of the border pass of (Tarpi) in Georgian SSR. At the meeting we agreed on all the questions related to the construction of a water duct across the border stream (Kebash) and the operation of the relevant services dealing with the motor transport crossing the border. We also mapped out the time when it should be opened. It has been envisaged for the last 10 days of August.

It has been assumed that this border pass will initially operate in a somewhat restricted fashion. In other words, only border links will be developed initially, and vehicles carrying foreign-trade cargo will be the first to use this pass. Subsequently, a good deal of work will be done to improve approaches to the pass and build houses for the corresponding infrastructure. It will take a certain amount of time. We have already worked out plans for that.

[Correspondent] Arkadiy Andreyevich, may it happen that the concern both sides show for the agreement and the funds allocated to it will be in vain? Will there be cargo to transport, and what are the prospects for this agreement?

[(Suvorov)] I think that we have very large-scale prospects. We have not had such links for a long time. Currently commodity circulation between our countries is growing. In other words, our trade organizations will receive yet another very important channel for expanding their trade and economic relations. Secondly, we also think that after the border pass has been opened and the agreement has come fully into force following the ratification, tourist trips will develop from the USSR to Turkey and from Turkey to the USSR. The pass may also be used as a transit point for tourists traveling across our countries, something that will assist in developing cultural, political, and other links between our countries and promoting the establishment of good-neighborly relations between the USSR and Turkey. [end recording]

Naval Training Ship Fnds Visit to Istanbul

LD0508125688 Moscow TASS in English 1104 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Istanbul August 5 TASS—The official friendly call to Istanbul of the Soviet naval training ship "Smolny" has ended today. Hundreds of residents of the city visited the Soviet ship which was riding at anchor in Bosphoros. The Soviet seamen saw the sights of the city.

Talking with a TASS correspondent, commander of the cruise Vice-Admiral Viktor Buynov noted that that had been the first official visit of a Soviet naval training ship to Turkey. It was paid in accordance with the program of Turkish-Soviet contacts in the military field.

Latin America & Caribbean

Nicaragua's President Ortega Interviewed

LD0708104588 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0400 GMT 7 Aug 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast; interview with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega by correspondent Yuriy Baranov; date and place not given—recorded; Ortega remarks in Spanish with superimposed Russian translation]

[Text] [Baranov] How would you characterize the exacerbation of the situation in the country?

[Ortega] The Nicaraguan Government was completely responsible in its approach to carrying out the Guatemalan accords and the Sapoa agreement. Taking advantage of this, the United States attempted to urge the internal opposition into vigorous action in support of foreign aggression. Melton, the U.S. ambassador who was expelled for interference in Nicaragua's internal affairs, played some part in this. Instead of seeking a rapprochement between the United States and Nicaragua, he strove to exacerbate still further the situation that had come about as a result of the anti-Nicaraguan U.S. policy.

[Baranov] What are the prospects for a cease-fire agreement?

[Ortega] Our position remains the same: We are in favor of a cease-fire. By deploying mercenaries who terrorize the civilian population, the Reagan administration is undermining an agreement. All the events of recent days graphically confirm this. We have come to our ninth anniversary in an increasingly intense struggle against the Reagan administration's imperialist policy, which is still not retreating from its aim of putting an end to the Nicaraguan revolution. We are countering this with the cohesion of the people and their vanguard, the Sandinist front, in pursuing our government's foreign and domestic policy course. Indeed, the revolution will find the strength to stand its ground in the face of escalating aggression.

Foreign Minister Scores U.S. Anti-Nicaragua Acts

LD0808083188 Moscow TASS in English 0623 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City August 8 TASS—The United States should be brought to court of history for the war unleashed against the peaceful people of Nicaragua who stood in defence of their sovereignty and independence, said Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman staying in Mexico on a private visit.

The fact that the U.S. Congress can put on its agenda such a question as granting millions of dollars to Somozan counter-revolutionaries is a blatant violation of rules and principles of international law, the Nicaraguan minister pointed out. Such actions undermine the process of a peaceful settlement in Central America and lead to a further aggravation of the situation in the region.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Visits Peru, Departs

LD0608102188 Moscow TASS in English 0953 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Lima August 6 TASS—The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Pulat Khabibullayev, vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who were on a working visit in Peru on their way home have left for Moscow.

Before departure the head of the Soviet delegation noted at the press conference that in the course of the meetings and talks held in Peru with the leaders of the Republic's congress, views were exchanged on a broad range of issues, which brought to light an identity or closeness of the views of the sides.

In its foreign policy the USSR proceeds from the premise that each country irrespective of its size and number of population should develop on a democratic basis and without interference from the outside. This is attainable only in conditions of peace, whose strengthening is advocated in the Soviet Union and Peru. The friendly relations between our parliaments are a solid basis for deepening mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, Pulat Khabibullayev said.

Delegation Departs for Ecuador Inauguration

LD0708204288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0845 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 7 Aug, (TASS)—A USSR delegation led by Zakash Kamalidenov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, left Moscow for Quito today to take part in events related to R. Borja Cevallos' inauguration as Ecuador's president.

Latin American Communist Parties Meet

LD0808083688 Moscow TASS in English 0809 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Montevideo August 8 TASS—A three-day conference of Communist parties of Latin American countries ended its work here. The forum of Communists examined the present-day political situation on the continent and discussed pressing tasks of the Communist parties and experience of their work. Much attention was given to questions of stepping up solidarity with the peoples of Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, Chile and Paraguay.

Brazilian Warship Departs Leningrad 7 Aug

LD0708145288 Moscow TASS in English 1346 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Leningrad August 7 TASS—The warship "Brasil" of Brazil's Navy, which stayed on an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union, left the Leningrad sea terminal today. The Brazilian seamen have embarked upon the programme of the next lap in their long voyage, designed for seven months.

The warship stayed in Leningrad for four days. The Brazilian seamen had a possibility to see places of interest in the USSR's second biggest city, which marked its 285th anniversary this year. The seamen had meetings with citizens, municipality officials, commanders of the Leningrad naval base.

Political & Social

Further on Ligachev's Gorkiy Visit, Speech

PM0508160988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
6 Aug 88 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Down to Business Without Delay"]

[Text] Gorkiy, 5 Aug—The results produced by every collective and every worker are the real gauge of activity to fulfill restructuring's tasks. This was stressed today at a meeting between Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the aktiv of Gorkiy Oblast party organization.

The meeting was opened by G.M. Khodyrev, first secretary of Gorkiy CPSU Obkom. He gave a briefing on the work of the oblast party organization at the present stage of restructuring.

The meeting was addressed by Ye.K. Ligachev.

The whole of the country's life is increasingly influenced by the ideas and decisions of the 19th party conference, he said. In Lenin's words, the conference has given the party "an enormous increase in its strength and weight." It fulfilled the main mandate of Communists and nonparty people—to develop the political and organizational preconditions for making restructuring irreversible and deepening it.

A lively, keen discussion was held at the conference. Delegates strongly condemned the errors and crimes of the past and criticized the shortcomings and blunders of the last 3 years. At the same time, they categorically rejected attempts to nullify the achievements of the Soviet people and the party in the course of socialist building, to belittle the real results of restructuring, and to thrust upon us ideas of a multiparty system and of creating a political opposition in society. In short, it was a forum of like-minded people, of people sincerely interested in revealing socialism's creative potential. [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian carries a similar TASS report on pages 1 and 2 of its 6 August First Edition. At this point the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA version adds the following sentence: "The conference strengthened in all of us the feeling of Soviet patriotism and pride in our party and country."]

The party Central Committee—and this was clearly reflected in M.S. Gorbachev's report at the conference—is certainly not inclined to create exaggerated notions of the transforming work or of the fulfillment of the 27th congress directives. In a number of cases new approaches are only just beginning to burgeon and the preconditions for acceleration are being accumulated.

The conference and its decisions open up new horizons for restructuring. The powerful forces of democracy and socialist self-management are being brought into play. To realize the power of the people in full and in reality is in fact the main point of the reform of the political system proposed by the Central Committee. Success will depend to a decisive extent on whether the party itself acts—in full accordance with the Leninist concept—as the real political vanguard of society. It is primarily a question of getting rid of functions that do not properly belong to it and seriously restructuring the style, methods, and forms of work of all party links, from the primary organization to the Central Committee.

Our party is a ruling party. And while increasing the sovereignty of the soviets, it is not renouncing its leading role. The fear is sometimes voiced that this concentration on political functions might lead to the party's self-removal from the economy and other practical matters. I think that fears of this nature are unfounded. And notions that in our socialist society the economy can develop exclusively on the basis of market laws, without accounting for the politically expressed interests of the working people, are equally unfounded.

Allow me to make a small digression here. Commodity-money relations and the market are realities of the socialist economy. We are now overcoming their underestimation. We intend to impart a developed nature to these forms of ties. We must and will utilize all the best that has been accumulated by the historical experience of organizing exchange and the market. But first, we must do this without forgetting that market forms of ties are not a panacea against all ills, and that they themselves need regulating one way or another. Second, we must do this while realizing that copying the Western model of a market based on private ownership is fundamentally unacceptable for the socialist system of economic management founded on social ownership.

It is inadmissible to forget, for example, that the capitalist market is not just a market for things and capital. An inalienable part of this model is the manpower market with its ruthless laws and chronic unemployment. It is impossible not to see that market relations are inevitably accompanied in capitalist society by deep social stratification, a deepening of inequality, and a concentration of wealth in the hands of a small section of society. Should we really reproduce all that here?

It is not a question of whether a developed socialist market is needed or whether it is necessary to assimilate such powerful regulators of economic growth as, say, prices or supply and demand. It is undoubtedly necessary. But it is necessary, at the same time, to ensure that labor productivity growth goes hand in hand with the working people's full employment, that the flexible operation of the price formation mechanism is accompanied by real growth in the living standards of all members of society, and that economic interests are realized together with the strengthening of social justice and protection and the country's political stability.

But let us return to our discussion, the speaker continued. Delimiting the functions of the party and the state does not mean separating politics from economics. On the contrary, it is a question precisely of the necessary and only real way to strengthen party and political influence on the system of priorities in economics and social practice. And there is another side to the matter. The party's leading role belongs not only to its highest echelons, not only to local committees. The party is, above all, primary organizations in labor collectives with their everyday production and worldly concerns. Is it conceivable for Communists to stand aside from these concerns! It is precisely through more vigorous activities by primary organizations that party policy will be interpreted.

The Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo attach paramount significance to implementing the party conference decisions. As you know, a CPSU Central Committee plenum was held recently to discuss a wide range of questions raised in the conference delegates' speeches and in numerous appeals addressed to the conference. A detailed, specific plan of action was adopted. The Central Committee thereby set an example of a truly businesslike, constructive approach to the results of the party conference. Just such an approach is required of everyone today. Everyone must get down to work at once, without loud words, and develop purposeful, painstaking organizational and ideological political work on fulfilling the adopted decisions.

The speaker dwelt on objective and subjective difficulties of restructuring. He called the surmounting of conservatism and red tape the most vital task. Democratization will strike a telling blow against their positions.

There is no longer any need today to persuade people that socialist pluralism of views is an indispensable condition for elaborating comprehensively substantiated approaches, the CPSU Central Committee secretary continued. However, when decisions have been adopted, they must be fulfilled. "Following a decision by competent organs," V.I. Lenin emphasized, "all we party members act as one person." This does not mean that debate is not necessary at this stage. But we must not endlessly return to what has become the party's guidelines. Efforts must now be channeled into seeking the most efficient ways to realize them.

We must place in the service of restructuring, above all, what has started to grow since the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum. It is also served by past experience of the party's activity that has stood the test of time.

Critical interpretation of the lessons of history and continuity of policy are indissoluble conditions for the party's successful work. Ignoring both approaches is fraught with serious complications. Evidence of this is provided by the crisis events in the Transcaucasus. Disregard for historical experience of resolving the nationalities question in our country within the framework of the established national territorial structures led the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh into a political impasse. There is no easy way out of it. [The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA version omits the preceding sentence]

Socialism's ability to develop and improve on its own basis is manifested in the dialectical unity of the policy of renewal and continuity.

The Central Committee believes that in the course of restructuring there has been an appreciable increase in the working people's involvement in managing the state's affairs and in their activeness in using the freedoms of speech, the press, rally, and assembly. It is important to ensure that the businesslike suggestions advanced by them are realized and that the shortcomings exposed are eliminated.

At the same time people in some places, misunderstanding democratization, are trying to resolve the problems by means of strikes. Socialism is the working people's system, and it is absurd for them to go on strike against themselves. In our society there are other democratic, constructive ways to resolve conflicts. An atmosphere of contempt must be created around inciters of strikes, illegal rallies, and demonstrations which are of an extremist, antisocialist nature. Leaders who connive at unlawful actions must bear the entire responsibility for this. As for Communists, their involvement in strikes and illegal assemblies is simply incompatible with party membership. There can be no other decisions.

The priority of the cause is making us take a new look at our ideological work, too, the speaker said. Two functions are inseparably combined in it—explanatory-educational and constructive-organizational. V.I. Lenin was the first to note this.

I believe that we should now considerably strengthen the constructive-organizational function of ideology. The involvement of the mass news and propaganda media in practical matters is what is assuming special significance. In the ideological sphere, obviously, the chief emphasis must be shifted to where millions of workers, kolkhoz members, and members of the intelligentsia work every day. Their voice and their views and opinions need higher public recognition. With the formulation of the main areas of the reform of the political system the party has essentially finished shaping the program for the renewal of society and the strategic plan of an offensive across the whole front.

The reform of the political system on which we are now embarking in line with the decisions of the party conference and the Central Committee July (1988) Plenum does not mean that the cardinal economic reform or, say, the reform of the education system, are being downgraded in the slightest, much less forgotten. Quite the opposite. Only taken as an indissoluble whole can the reforms produce results—to guarantee revolutionary

transformations through the entire gamut of social relations. The success of each reform—or, conversely, its failure—could have a considerable effect on our progress toward our planned goals.

Moving onto the results of work by working people in Gorkiy Oblast, Ye.K. Ligachev noted that the oblast's industrial and agricultural output is growing on the whole at a rate corresponding to the 5-year plan targets. [The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA version renders the previous sentence as follows: "Moving onto the results of work by working people in Gorkiy Oblast, Ye.K. Ligachev noted that they are having an appreciable impact on the dynamics of scientific and technical progress and on the development of a number of sectors of the national economy. A powerful center of machine-building and the chemical industry is concentrated here. It can be noted with satisfaction, he said, that the oblast's industrial and agricultural output is growing on the whole at a rate corresponding to the 5-year plan targets."] But results are now not only determined by comparison with plans but also by comparison with the potential, requirements, and cost at which the targets are fulfilled.

From this standpoint it must be pointed out that both the industrial and the agricultural potential of the oblast are growing more rapidly than their output. The new economic mechanism is not working as it should. This is apparent, for example, in the fact that one-fifth of Gorkiy's enterprises working under the new conditions fail to meet their contract obligations in terms of output deliveries. Or take construction workers. All the main subdivisions of the Glavvolgovyatskstroy have been transferred to the collective contract, but this has had absolutely no effect on labor productivity growth rates. High-productivity lines, machine tools, and robots are poorly utilized in industry. The low technical level of a number of machine-building goods and also many consumer goods is a source of concern.

Why are we taking these problems to the party aktiv? Because the use of reserves is now a big political issue. We must do a better job of bringing everything at our disposal into play and choose the right directions in which to channel labor collectives' efforts. The targeting of political and organizational work by primary party organizations and party committees is important in this respect.

The secretary of the CPSU Central Committee shared his impressions of his visit to the Gorkiy Automobile Plant. The most important problem there is to modernize and retool production. This applies to all machine-building enterprises in the oblast. The modernization problem also faces Gorkiy chemical industry workers.

Talking about his meetings and conversations with specialists, workers, and kolkhoz workers, he stressed that whatever subject was touched on, one thing was always reaffirmed: Progress can only be made by primarily showing concern for the working people's everyday needs.

Priority, as noted at the 19th all-union party conference, Ye.K. Ligachev said, must be given to satisfying people's requirements for valuable food products in as short a time as possible. In recent years the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government have implemented a series of major measures to stimulate agricultural production and the output of the food industry. These are producing positive results. Nevertheless, the problem is still the most serious and the most painful one in the life of our society.

The CPSU Central Committee secretary analyzed the state of affairs in Gorkiy Oblast's agro-industrial complex, a major one in the RSFSR non-Chernozem zone. Considerable funds are being invested in its development. But the growth of production is not tangible enough compared with requirements, and falls far short of the countryside's potential. In order to reach the planned level, the rate of production growth has to increase 2-5 times. At the moment large amounts of crop farming and livestock products have to be brought into the oblast from other regions. But the potential of the country's agrarian sector is still limited. In order to make richer and more varied the diet of the people of Gorkiy Oblast, which is at the moment very modest, it is necessary to provide for people's needs for basic foodstuffs by producing them locally. The speaker recommended wider and more resolute introduction of the lease contract and incentives for the development of personal holdings [podvoriya] and incentives for the development of enterprises' subsidiary farms. Reduction of losses of products during harvesting, transportation, storage, and processing is a substantial reserve. It was pointed out that it is important to gear cities' industrial potential to the acute problems of the agro-industrial complex. It was said that it is necessary to create zones of guaranteed milk, potato, vegetable, fruit, and berry production around the oblast center by 1990.

Problems of the social reorganization of the Gorkiy countryside are of decisive significance, Ye.K. Ligachev continued. As is known, the Central Committee has set the oblast party organization substantial tasks in this connection. Much has already been done. Yet people continue to leave the countryside. It is a worryisome fact. As you can see, plans are plans, even if they are fulfilled, whereas people have their own views of our work, their own yardsticks for assessing labor and living conditions and life prospects. Party, soviet, and economic organs in the oblast must establish their social policy in line with these very yardsticks.

He went on to talk about the need for a very serious effort to improve the way the housing problem is being tackled and the provision of health and cultural facilities for the population. The central task for the Gorkiy people in this sphere is that of increasing production of construction materials and improving the use of housing construction capacities.

The speech dealt with ecological problems in Gorkiy. The cardinal improvement of the situation should be at the top of the party obkom's political work agenda and local soviet bodies must focus their practical efforts on it.

The CPSU Central Committee secretary dwelt in particular on questions of restructuring public education and culture. While noting definite progress in the development of this sphere in Gorkiy Oblast, he said that from the position of the demands of the 19th all-union party conference and Central Committee February plenum this progress can only be described as the first steps in a vast job. Attention was drawn to the need for a more caring attitude toward historical and cultural monuments. It was noted that the "leftover" approach to the development of the material base of culture has evidently not yet been overcome. The tradition of holding mass popular festivals in the city has been lost.

The speech touched on questions of CPSU foreign policy, in particular on the correlation between general human and proletarian-class interests.

They are intrinsically and profoundly interconnected. The true purpose of socialism is the liberation of man and mankind from all types of exploitation and oppression. But can we Communists remain aloof from global problems, from the struggle against the nuclear threat and for the salvation of civilization? No, we cannot. Unless people win this struggle, the efforts to improve working people's lives and guarantee the fundamental interests of the working class and the right of the peoples to decide their own destiny will lose their meaning.

We proceed from the class nature of international relations. Any other formulation of the issue only introduces confusion into the thinking of Soviet people and our friends abroad. [The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA version omits the preceding sentence] Active involvement in the solution of general human problems by no means signifies any artificial "braking" of the social and national liberation struggle. And M.S. Gorbachev's report at the 19th party conference reaffirmed the CPSU's solidarity with the working people of the entire world.

In conclusion Ye.K. Ligachev said:

Much work lies ahead. The decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and Central Committee July plenum enable the party and Soviet people to move forward even more boldly and more confidently along the path of renewing socialism. Get down to business without delay. The Central Committee wishes Communists and all working people of Gorkiy Oblast success in implementing our revolutionary designs.

In their speeches the following people voiced their considerations on how to build work in the future in order to pursue with greater efficiency the policy of renewal of the life of our society: B.V. Perevezentsev, leader of a team of fitters at the "Krasnoye Sormovo" Plant and chairman of the labor collective council; M.V. Tararin, chairman of Koverinskiy Rayon's "Mir" Kolkhoz; G.A. Suvorov, first secretary of Gorkiy Komsomol Obkom; and Academician G.G. Devyatykh, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Chemistry Institute. [The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA version omits the preceding paragraph]

While he was in Gorkiy and Gorkiy Oblast 2-5 August Ye.K. Ligachev visited, as already mentioned, the Gorkiy Automobile Plant. He visited shops and assembly lines. During meetings with workers and specialists and with the enterprise party aktiv, there was a discussion of ways of retooling the plant—the number one task. In particular, it was pointed out that one of the keys to its successful implementation is the development of its own machine building. Attention was drawn to the importance of the social sphere and the creation of its own strong construction base to ensure the speediest solution of the housing question and develop the plant agricultural shop. The participants in the conversations talked about the developing process of restructuring in primary party organizations and the concern that must be shown for their leaders.

The theme of satisfying the population's paramount needs largely determined the character of the conversation at the Arzamas CPSU Gorkom. The discussion centered on ways to increase the agrarian sector's yield in the rayon so as to improve the supply of produce and on the pace of stockraising construction.

The CPSU Central Committee secretary familiarized himself thoroughly with the elimination of the consequences of the explosion at Arzamas, which was reported in the press. He toured a district of individual construction which suffered from the disaster, talked with residents, and at their invitation visited their rebuilt homes. People expressed profound gratitude to the party, the Soviet state, local party and soviet workers, militia organs, and physicians for their great concern and help. There was also a trip to a residential district of high-rise housing which is being built by envoys of various regions of the country.

In the oblast's Shatkovskiy Rayon Ye.K. Ligachev asked about the work of the "Shatki" cooperative state-kolkhoz association. There was a lively conversation in the field with combine operators working on the harvest. They noted that the collective contract has given them an incentive for highly productive labor.

The CPSU Central Committee secretary visited the Gorkiy footwear association.

There was a meeting with mass media workers from Gorkiy city and oblast. It was stressed that the party and its Central Committee regard journalists as active supporters of the processes of renewal and the press as an

effective lever for implementing the tasks of restructuring. In this connection special attention was drawn to the need to now intensify the creative role of the press, radio, and television, at the stage of implementing the decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference. At the same time it was pointed out that the press' creative mission is impossible without its organizational role.

During a meeting with activists of the local branch of the All-Russian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments and representatives of the creative intelligentsia, the talk centered on the fact that the preservation of and propaganda about monuments must be regarded as an important area of ideological work and patriotic education. While showing a solicitous attitude toward antiquity, it is necessary to make wider and more effective use in educational work of everything connected with our people's revolutionary past, their feats during the Great Patriotic War, and achievements in the socialist building sphere.

Ye.K. Ligachev visited the Gorkiy vegetable depot, stores, and canteens, and talked with customers. A conference was held with leaders of the local agro-industrial committee on questions raised during those conversations.

A conversation was held with members of the Gorkiy CPSU Obkom Bureau. [The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA version omits the preceding paragraph]

In Gorkiy the CPSU Central Committee secretary laid flowers at the monument to V.I. Lenin and at the Eternal Flame of the memorial dedicated to the citizens of Gorkiy who fell in the struggle for our motherland's freedom and independence.

Flowers were laid in Shatki at the memorial in honor of fallen heroes and at the tomb of the Leningrad girl Tanya Savicheva, whose diary of the blockade is well known to the whole world.

Ye.K. Ligachev was accompanied on his tours of Gorkiy and the oblast by G.M. Khodyrev and A.A. Sokolov, chairman of the Gorkiy Oblispolkom.

Television Carries Comments

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[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev is in Gorkiy Oblast. Today he met with the aktiv of the oblast party organization. Addressing a meeting, he said, among other things:

[Begin Ligachev recording] Esteemed comrades, I believe that you will agree with me when I say that the whole of life in our country is now moving forward under the influence—under the increasing influence, moreover—of the ideas and decisions of the 19th all-union party conference. In Lenin's words the party conference has given our party an enormous increase in strength and weight and has undoubtedly strengthened the confidence of the whole people in the success of the revolutionary changes. It has fulfilled the main mandate of Communists and nonparty people: It has worked out the political and organizational prerequisites for making restructuring irreversible, and for deepening it.

You are well aware of the fact that discussion took place at the conference. Let's put it bluntly: lively, sharp, and impartial discussion. Delegates subjected the errors and crimes of the past to serious condemnation and criticized thoroughly the shortcomings and blunders of the last 3 years following the April plenum of the party's Central Committee. And at the same time—and I would particularly like to stress this—they categorically rejected attempts to strike out the historic achievements of the Soviet people and of the Communist Party in the course of socialist construction; to belittle the real results of restructuring; and to toss over to us ideas of a multiparty system and of creating a political opposition in our society. [end recording]

[Announcer] Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev went on to note that there are still acute problems in the economic and social spheres. There are also omissions and errors. But none of this is cause for disappointment, for losing heart. On the contrary, the difficulties we are encountering must serve only to make us mobilize ourselves, to follow along the course that has been chosen in a more insistent and energetic manner.

[Begin Ligachev recording] The party Central Committee, the Politburo, and the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee attach paramount significance to implementing in a real way the party decisions. As you know, a plenum of the party's Central Committee took place recently for that purpose. Let's be blunt, a detailed, specific plan of action was adopted. The party Central Committee thereby set an example to all of us, an example of a truly businesslike and constructive approach to the results of the party conference. Today a new approach is required of all of us, comrades, an approach of the very kind that was required by the party's Central Committee plenum. Without loud words we have to begin practical matters in a serious way and for a long period of time, and we have to develop purposeful, painstaking organizational and ideological-educational work in implementing the decisions that have been adopted.

I would say that we have to act mercilessly in eradicating the age-old style of failing to exert oneself and once again remaining idle. What's more, this is often done under cover of politically fine-sounding words. That style, moreover, is one of the most dangerous manifestations of conversatism. Indeed, is it not there that one finds the essence of behavior of those people who oppose the high demands of working in the new way, because they either

see or fear the way in which they might shake the foundations of socialism? And is it not in the image of the conservative turned inside out that those people show themselves supposedly worried about the slow progress of the reforms, while they put forward nothing at all—except, often, for rejections of all and everything—that is constructive, and in figurative terms are scared stiff of the so-called calluses that come from the hard work of restructuring. Let's be quite blunt: It's a dreadful habit, talking in terms of a ruble but of delivering in terms of just one kopeck.

When decisions have been made, comrades, they have be carried out, by our joint efforts and thoroughly. This is what the great Lenin had to say in this connection. Following a decision by the competent bodies, Vladimir Ilich Lenin stressed, all we party members act as one person. This does not mean, comrades, that at this particular stage we are not going to hold discussions. No, we need them. But I do not think that we can go on endlessly returning to things on which we have already reached agreement and which have become the directives of our party. It seems to me that efforts must be directed toward the search for the most effective ways, forms, and methods of implementing the decisions that have been adopted.

We must place in the service of restructuring, above all, what has started to grow since the April 1985 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. That part of the past experience of the party's activity that has stood the test of time will also be of service to restructuring.

I would like to stress the following. Critical interpretation of the lessons of history and continuity of policy, it would appear, are indissoluble conditions for successful activity by the party. Ignoring either the one or the other of these approaches is—let us be blunt—fraught with complications that are often serious. Evidence of this is provided by the crisis events in the Transcaucasus. Disregard of historical experience in resolving the nationalities question in our country within the framework of those very structures moved Nagorno-Karabakh into a political impasse. Nihilism with regard to the past, it seems to me, gives rise to the same kind of attitude toward the present. The link between the times, the link between the generations, is lost. It is precisely in the dialectical unity of the policy of renewal and continuity that the ability of socialism to develop and to improve itself further on its own foundation is displayed.

Both other comrades, and I myself on more than one occasion—and I am sure that this applies to you, too—have been insisting that democracy is indivisible from the strictest observance of discipline and legality. In this connection, I want to draw attention to the following. Contradictions and conflicts are inherent in socialism as they are in any social system. Such are the dialectics of development, as they say. But they are not irreconcilable in character, and the ways and forms of resolving them are different.

The Central Committee believes that in the course of restructuring there has been an appreciable increase in the working people's involvement in managing the state's affairs and in the activeness of our people in using the freedoms of speech, of the press, of meetings, and of assembly. At the same time, it is very important, unusually important, to ensure that the businesslike suggestions advanced by the working people are realized and that the shortcomings exposed are eliminated.

At the same time—and this I would like to stress especially—in understanding democratization in a wrong way people in some places are trying to resolve the conflicts that arise between administration and collective by means of strikes, no more and no less. Socialism is the system of the working people; going on strike against themselves is quite simply an absurdity. In our society there are other democratic, constructive ways of resolving conflicts. I think that we have to create an atmosphere of contempt in society around inciters of strikes and illegal rallies and demonstrations which are of an extremist and antisocialist nature. Leaders who connive at illegal actions must bear complete liability for this. As far as Communists are concerned, their participation in strikes and illegal assemblies, I would say, is quite simply incompatible with party membership. I do not think that there can be any other decisions here. [end recording]

[Announcer] Comrade Ligachev devoted a considerable part of his speech to specific problems in the work of the oblast party organization. The need to carry out a strong social policy was stressed. In particular, he said:

[Begin Ligachev recording] Over the past few days, comrades, I have had what I would say were most interesting meetings and conversations with many inhabitants of Gorkiy Oblast: specialists, workers, and kolkhoz farmers. I would like to draw your attention to one particular feature: No matter what subjects we discussed, even deeply technical ones, one thing was confirmed: We can only move forward and accomplish tasks when we display first and foremost genuine concern for the everyday needs of the working people. In fact, the whole meaning of the policy of socialist renewal is to enable people to lead better and more interesting lives, richer both in material and spiritual terms. This is the whole meaning of the restructuring policy.

Priority, as was noted at the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, must be given first and foremost to satisfying the requirements of the Soviet people for food products of full value, and to doing so within the shortest possible period of time. In recent years, as you know, the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government have implemented what I would call unusual measures, measures which seem to us to be fundamentally effective and extraordinarily large-scale for stimulating agricultural production and the food industry. They are already giving known results. Nevertheless, as was said at the All-Union CPSU Conference, the problem of ensuring

the country's food supply is the most acute, painful area in the life of our society. As has already been said here, it is currently necessary to bring arable and livestock farming produce into the oblast from other parts of the country, and to do so in considerable quantities. As a result, consumption of, say, meat per capita of your oblast's population is greater than the figure for the average throughout the country. But as I see it, the table of the people who live in Gorkiy is still extremely modest.

Making it richer and more varied within a short time by bringing in food from outside is not a very realistic path, I tell you frankly. The capabilities of the country's agrarian sector for doing this are still extremely limited. This is something you yourselves feel. It is necessary, therefore, to provide for people's needs in terms of the basic foodstuffs by producing them locally. What is more, dear comrades, more than anyone else you have both a large industrial potential and also a large land stock. There is something of the order of 0.8 hectares per capita, which is considerably more than the average per capita throughout the country. Of course, it is a difficult thing to ensure one's own supply of food products from local production. Frankly speaking, however, there is quite simply no other fast road toward sufficiency. I would therefore like to call on you to be more vigorous in putting agriculture onto the intensive track and to be bolder in grasping the levers of the new mechanism of economic management. That is the most important thing.

The CPSU Central Committee recently examined the issue of improving supplies of foodstuffs in 830 major industrial cities of the country, including the city of Gorkiy. But it did not do so with the object of taking this from somewhere and giving it to these cities, thus rapidly improving their foodstuff supplies. We simply do not have the possibility of doing that. No small importance for these purposes is being attached to the development of the cities' industrial potential toward meeting the acute problems of the agro-indushtrial complex. This is the purpose with which we looked at these cities. Measures in this connection have been defined in your case, too. We have had a thorough conversation. We can feel that you are beginning to deal with this matter seriously. To implement them, the most resolute political and organizational support by local soviet and economic bodies must be given, so that a zone of guaranteed production of milk, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, and berries can be created around the oblast center by the year 1990.

Among the many problems in the development of agriculture, comrades, problems of the social reorganization of the countryside are of decisive significance. As is known, the Central Committee has set the Gorkiy Oblast party organization serious tasks in this connection. A CPSU Central Committee decision was adopted in this connection. I want to report with satisfaction that a great deal has been done over the time that has elapsed. During the past 5-year plan it was possible to double the number of flats put into operation per farm. I do have to draw your attention to the fact that lately you have once again substantially reduced the speed. Rates of road construction, of building preschools, schools, and clubs have risen.

Nevertheless, comrades, I note that the drift away of the rural population has not been halted. Here are the figures: Over the past 7 years about 100,000 workers of working age have left the villages of your oblast, 100,000 workers of working age. An alarming fact. As you can see, plans are plans, even if they are fulfilled, whereas people, as they say, have their own way of assessing our work, their own yardsticks for assessing working and living conditions, their own way of measuring living prospects. Party, local soviet, and economic bodies in the oblast must, therefore, structure their social policy in line with precisely these yardsticks rather than measuring themselves only against plans and targets. Only serious and, I would say, stable changes, particularly in the remote areas, can inspire people with optimism and confidence that changes for the better are taking place in the countryside. [end recording]

[Announcer] The speech also covered certain issues in the party's foreign policy.

[Begin Ligachev recording] Here, comrades, I would like to touch on an issue of vital importance, the question of the correlation between general human and proletarian-class interests. We must stress straightaway that what we are talking about are not things in opposition, but a primordial and deep interlinking between the general human approach and the class approach in foreign policy. The true meaning of socialism, as you understand, consists in the liberation of man and mankind from all types of exploitation and oppression. The question arises: Can we Communists disregard reality and global problems? For example, can we remain apart from the struggle to save human civilization? Of course not. Unless people win this struggle, you must understand that all attempts to improve the life of the working people and to make it, as they say, freer and more worthy and more rich, lose all their point. The struggle for peace and for the survival of mankind is indeed also the struggle for the root interests of the working class, for the right of the people to choose their own road and to decide on their own fate for themselves. It makes it possible to fetter the forces of imperialist militarism. No doubt, opposition to its expansionist aspirations with regard to other countries is stimulated by efforts directed toward the political settlement of regional conflicts of all kinds.

We proceed, comrades, from the fact that international relations are particularly class in character, and that is of fundamental importance. Any other way of putting this question introduces confusion into the consciousness of our people and our friends abroad. Active involvement

in the solution of general human problems, and primarily the struggle against the nuclear threat, by no means signifies any—I would say—artificial braking of the social and national, national liberation, struggle. It does not mean that class contradictions and antagonisms are being ignored. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the report given by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the 19th CPSU Conference again confirmed our party's unchanging solidarity with the working people of the whole world and with those fighting against colonialism, racism, and reaction. [end recording]

[Announcer] In conclusion, Comrade Ligachev stated:

[Begin Ligachev recording] There is a mass of work ahead, comrades. There is a lot of it. The decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the CPSU Central Committee July Plenum enable the party and the Soviet people to move forward, I would say, even more boldly and confidently along the path of renewing socialism. Get down to business without delay, as they say, comrades. The CPSU Central Committee wishes the Communists and the working people of Gorkiy Oblast success in implementing our revolutionary designs. [applause] [end recording]

Journal Calls for Solzhenitsyn Rehabilitation

AU0508140588 Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, Aug 5 (AFP)—A Soviet literary magazine on Friday called for the rehabilitation of exiled dissident writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and the restoration of his Soviet citizenship.

The PANORAMA OF BOOKS, in an article quoting writer Iliana Chukovoka, said that before publishing "Cancer Ward", a Solzhenitsyn novel, "we need to quash the injustice that accuses him of treason and give him back his nationality."

"Afterward, we will publish his books," the article said.

"It is time to put an end to our differences with this remarkable son of Russia, an officer of the Soviet Army, a victim of Stalin's labor camps, a universally-acclaimed writer."

The article was the second this week in the Soviet press praising the author.

The weekly MOSCOW NEWS said in its latest issue that Solzhenitsyn's "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denissovich" was "one of the strongest works in Soviet literature."

With that book, Solzhenitsyn was the first to express openly the suffering that millions endured at the hands of Soviet leader Stalin and his police chief Beria, the weekly said.

He was exiled in 1974 and now lives in the United States.

Dissident Ukrainian Poet Reportedly Freed

AU0508070888 Paris AFP in English 0312 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, Aug 5 (AFP)—Ukrainian poet and journalist Ivan Sakulski has been freed from a labour camp after some eight years, the dissident bulletin EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA reported here Thursday.

Mr Sakulski, 48, was released on Tuesday, the bulletin said, after being held in a section of the Perm labour camp set aside for prisoners condemned under Article 70 of the Soviet penal code, which deals with anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

He was sentenced in 1980 to ten years' imprisonment and five years' exile for "anti-Soviet agitation."

Five political prisoners were still being held in the special wing of the camp, the bulletin said, but added that several others had been freed recently.

Thursday, the Soviet Foreign Ministry confirmed the release last month of Lithuanian priest Alfonsas Svarinskas.

EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA reported that several meetings on behalf of political prisoners had recently been held in the Ukraine, including a gathering at Kiev, the capital, on July 14 calling for the release of Mr Sakulski.

Political Rehabilitation in USSR Viewed

LD0608205688 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1858 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, August 6 (TANJUG)—Lenin's close collaborators Lev Kamenev, Grigordy Zinovyev, Nikolay Bukharin and many other Soviet revolutionaries were forced by beating and blackmail to confess sins they never committed, says Vice-Chairman of the USSR Supreme Court Sergey Gusev.

Gusev cites NKVD [USSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs 1934-43] files and the statement by an NKVD official from the period, B. Kamkov, who said that Zinovyev, Kamenev, Bukharin and others had been beaten and threatened with destruction of their families unless they confessed to committing their "crimes." Their "confessions" did not contain a word of truth, they had not been involved in any acts of espionage and subversion, said Kamkov.

At the time of Stalin's purges and repression in the 1930's, Zinovyev and Kamenev, regardless of their past services for the revolution, were first expelled from Moscow without any investigation or court decision (in 1932). Then, after the 1934 assassination of Sergey Kirov, they were returned from exile and convicted in

1935 for alleged involvement in forming a "Moscow centre with anti-Soviet aims." Next year they were condemned to death and executed.

The Supreme Court of the USSR has established that the charges against Kamenev, Zinovyev and a number of other Soviet revolutionaries for complicity in the Kirov assassination and for forming the terrorist organization were unfounded, and, in June 1988, annulled the decision whereby they were convicted.

A commission of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party in charge of studying supplementary materials in connection with Stalin's repressions recently discussed a Supreme Court decision to rehabilitate a number of persons convicted at staged trials in the 1930's.

An announcement from the commission's session said that it "took note of the Supreme Court's decision." This means that Zinovyev, Kamenev and many others condemned to death together with them in the 1930's have been judicially rehabilitated, and that the commission will continue work on rehabilitation of other innocent victims of Stalin's terror.

MVD Discusses Crime, Internal Situation

LD0508162688 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—At its meeting today, the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Interior set the main tasks of the ministry's activity: On the basis of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and the July plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee to conduct more vigorously, in a more profound way and on a wider scale and work to restructure bodies of the Ministry of the Interior, to enhance effectiveness of the performance, to ensure the inviolability of law and order and guarantee the maximum protection of the rights and interests of an individual, society and state.

In his report, USSR Minister of the Interior Aleksandr Vlasov said that the crime rate in the country increased sharply in the times of stagnation. The envigoration of moral and political atmosphere after the 27th CPSU Congress made it possible to check a considerable range of crimes. The number of cases of homicide, hooliganism, crimes committed in a state of drunkenness reduced almost by a third.

It was noted in the report and during the debates that the shaping of a socialist law-governed state calls for a radical renewal of the arsenals of forms and methods of combating crime and for imparting to it a qualitatively new scope, which should be truly nation-wide and conducted on a state basis. The activity of social prevention of crime should be made more purposeful and vigorous. The area of criminal punishment has been considerably narrowed now. The number of convicts kept in colonies was reduced by over a third.

Paper Notes Proceedings

PM0808100588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 Second Edition p 6

[A. Grigoryev report: "At USSR MVD"]

[Text] A USSR MVD Collegium was held yesterday. A. Vlasov, USSR minister of internal affairs, who delivered the report, analyzed the state of affairs in various services and echelons of the ministry. It was emphasized that they have not all been able to acquire experience of work under the conditions of restructuring and the process of democratization. An unfavorable situation has taken shape in regions like the Moldavian SSR, the Transcaucasus, and Khabarovsk Kray, and in a number of Siberian and Far Eastern oblasts. Several republican and oblast subdivisions proved unprepared for the struggle against organized crime. Complaints were also leveled against the capital's militia.

It was noted that the stagnation period had seriously affected the efficiency of the foundation of the militia organs—criminal investigation. All this requires the serious and resolute galvanization of the activity of the internal affairs organs in fulfilling the decisions of the 19th party conference and the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) Plenum. This was also noted by the law enforcement organ workers who spoke at the session.

Militia Criticized

LD0608212888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Effective restructuring of the activities of the internal affairs bodies is impossible without a precise definition of the role, place, and tasks of political workers in this matter. This was stressed today at the all-union conference of staff from the political bodies of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. Strengthening cooperation with the public was given as an essential condition for increasing the efficiency of the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs bodies in combating crime.

Sadly, the militia's links with labor collectives have lately become weaker, and in many bodies demands for the staff to compulsorily give account of themselves in the labor collectives no less than twice a year are not being met. In the majority of cases, militia staff do not present apologies to rehabilitated citizens nor tell them of the measures taken against the culprit. All of this gives rise to rumor and conjecture regarding the notorious defense of honor of the uniform. In such a situation it is hard to rely on great prestige among the working people.

The political bodies must shift the emphasis in their activity considerably away from control functions toward practical organization of work and transfer party political work directly to the places in which they carry out their service.

Ethnic Commission Set Up in Moscow Soviet

LD0608162888 Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 6 TASS—The Moscow City Soviet of People's Deputies, a local government body, at today's session set up a standing commission for ethnic relations.

The session pointed out that the problem of ethnic relations, much discussed at the 19th Soviet Communist Party Conference, was topical for the Soviet capital too.

Moscow's population includes, apart from Russians, about a million representatives of 100 peoples and nationalities of the country.

The commission will coordinate and control the activities of state and public organisations in matters of ethnic relations, and help meet requirements of Muscovites of various nationalities, especially in the fields of education, folk art and communication among people.

Military Units Helping in Fields, Plantations

NC0508103988 Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian 0530 GMT 5 Aug 88

[From the review of KOMMUNIST]

[Text] The paper carries a story on the daily life of some military detachments that came to Yerevan in connection with the serious situation that recently developed in the city. Today the servicemen are carrying out their normal daily routine. Much time is allocated by the units to helping in the fields and plantations of nearby kolkhozes and sovkhozes. At the same time, the places where the detachments are located are frequently visited by representatives of the city's organizations, lecturers, and young people, who are acquainting the servicemen with the republic, its history, and its achievements during the years of Soviet rule.

New Novosibirsk Obkom Secretary Named

LD0508120988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] A plenum of the party obkom, which examined an organizational question, was held in Novosibirsk today. Comrade Filatov has been released from his duties as first secretary of the CPSU Obkom in connection with his retirement on pension. Comrade Kazarezov, who was previously first secretary of the Novosibirsk Gorkom, and more recently inspector of the CPSU Central Committee, has been elected to this post.

Comrade Razumovskiy, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke at the plenum.

New RSFSR Public Education Minister Appointed

LD0508163688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Georgiy Petrovich Veselov has today been appointed RSFSR public education minister by decree of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Lawyer Clarifies Citizenship Standards, Rules

PM0708140188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Candidate of Juridical Sciences Yu. Shulzhenko, chief of the constitutional law sector of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, by IZVESTIYA observer Yu. Feofanov under the rubric "From Competent Sources": "Citizen of One Country"—first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] From time to time the editorial office receives letters in which readers ask questions about the concept of "citizenship." Sometimes their motive is idle curiosity. Is it true, they ask, that a certain chess player, producer, or writer has become the subject of another country and retained his Soviet citizenship? Is this possible? IZVESTIYA observer Yu. Feofanov asked Candidate of Juridical Sciences Yu. Shulzhenko, chief of the sector of constitutional law of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, to answer readers' questions.

[Feofanov] It seems perfectly clear, but could you nonetheless tell us, Yuriy Leonidovich, what the law understands by the term "citizenship?

[Shulzhenko] When people are born, they acquire the status of citizens. That means that a state's sovereignty extends to them, and that, in turn, the state is responsible for protecting their rights and legitimate interests both within the country and abroad. Questions relating to citizenship are regulated by the USSR Constitution, the constitutions of union and autonomous republics, and the 1978 USSR Law on Citizenship. In addition, certain rules are contained in the Fundamental Principles of Matrimonial and Family Legislation and a number of USSR and union republic Supreme Soviet Presidium enactments. What kind of provisions are these? They concern the acquisition, loss, and restoration of USSR citizenship; the establishment of children's citizenship when their parents change citizenship and during adoption; the procedure for dealing with questions relating to citizenship; and so forth.

[Feofanov] What are the main principles which determine the nature of legislation on citizenship?

[Shulzhenko] First, questions pertaining to citizenship are settled in accordance with the Constitution by union-level authorities alone. The legislation lays down equal citizenship for all, its exclusiveness (nonrecognition of

dual citizenship), free and voluntary choice of citizenship, and the principles of "jus sanguinis" [citizenship of a child is determined by the citizenship of its parents] and "jus soli" [citizenship of a child is determined by the place of its birth].

[Feofanov] How are the last two principles to be interpreted in the light of equal citizenship and nonrecognition of dual citizenship?

[Shulzhenko] In principle there is even "triple citizenship" in the Soviet Union: citizenship of the USSR, union republic, and autonomous republic. Yet at the same time it is a single citizenship. This is based on the specific features of the Soviet national and state structure. In the United States, for instance, there are people of various nationalities but, with a few exceptions, they do not make up territorial formations; the states are purely administrative units. In our country, as is known, the territorial division takes account of the national composition of the country. The USSR Constitution (Article 33) reads: "Single union citizenship applies in the USSR. Citizens of all union republics are citizens of the USSR." This rule is also enshrined in the fundamental laws of union and autonomous republics. So Article 31 of the Latvian SSR Constitution reads: "In accordance with the single union citizenship established in the USSR, every Latvian SSR citizen is a citizen of the USSR." And Article 28 of the Tatar ASSR Constitution reads: "In accordance with the single union citizenship established in the USSR, every Tatar ASSR citizen is a citizen of the RSFSR and the USSR." However, it is not possible to be a citizen of the Tatar ASSR or Latvia without being a citizen of the USSR.

[Feofanov] Why go to these lengths if it is a matter of single citizenship? And does this not constitute albeit de jure recognition of dual and even triple citizenship?

[Shulzhenko] No, what we have is single citizenship. But the law takes account of both the global, international interests of the state as a union and of the specific national interests of union and autonomous republics. Single union citizenship guarantees the equality of all the members of Soviet society and rules out any differences in the legal position of the citizens of the various union republics.

[Feofanov] It appears that citizenship of the Tatar ASSR or Latvian SSR is a purely formal matter?

[Shulzhenko] I would not say formal. After all, our union is a single state, but the various nations do not lose their identity in it. The same principle is enshrined in citizenship as an institution. It is true that some of our monographs and textbooks refer to "juridical formalism." However, I would not use this term.

[Feofanov] Yet "dual citizenship" does exist in some countries? Can you explain it?

[Shulzhenko] Dual citizenship means that a person is simultaneously a citizen of two or even more states. Soviet legislation has never recognized dual or multiple citizenship. Article 8 of the Law on USSR Citizenship states this plainly: "A person who is a citizen of the USSR cannot be a citizen of a foreign state." This answers the curious readers' question. However, there are cases where certain of our compatriots can find themselves in the position of people with dual citizenship: for instance, when a child of citizens of a country where the "jus sanguinis" principle applies is born in a country where the "jus soli" principle applies. For instance, when a child is born on U.S. territory to parents who are USSR citizens. In this case the child acquires both USSR and U.S. citizenship. This is due to the fact that under our legislation a child that is born to Soviet parents irrespective of the place of birth is regarded as a Soviet citizen, and under U.S. law a child that is born in the United States is an American citizen. Dual citizenship can also occur in other circumstances. For instance if a Soviet citizen marries a foreign woman, or if a foreign man marries a Soviet girl. All this is the result of a collision—as lawyers refer to it—between USSR legislation and the laws of other states.

[Feofanov] Is that too merely a formality?

[Shulzhenko] No. Dual or multiple citizenship is fraught with great difficulties both for the state and the individual. On the one hand, it infringes the state's sovereignty, that is, it undermines the fundamental principle of the state: the exercise of the state's complete jurisdiction over its citizens. On the other hand, it gives rise to complications in the citizen's exercise of his rights. All this is forcing states to adopt measures to eliminate the causes which lead to dual citizenship. So in 1957 the Soviet Union signed the International Convention on the Citizenship of Married Women. One of the Convention's aims was to prevent dual citizenship of one of the members of the couple. This document specifically states that neither marriage nor divorce, nor a change of citizenship by the husband at the time of the marriage, will entail an automatic change in the wife's citizenship.

With a view to resolving questions of dual citizenship, the USSR has concluded relevant conventions with a number of socialist states: with Hungary in 1963, with the GDR in 1969, and with Romania in 1978, for example. Most of these documents specify that citizens who live on the territory of one of the countries which are party to the convention and whom both sides regard as their citizens can choose the citizenship of either country, but to the exclusion of the other. A period of 1 year has been set during which persons who possess dual citizenship must make up their mind. If they fail to do so during the appointed period, they will automatically become citizens of the country where they live. A number of conventions contain a rule according to which a person cannot acquire the citizenship of another socialist state unless he has the permission to renounce his previous citizenship.

[Feofanov] You did not finish explaining how this problem is dealt with in bourgeois countries. After all, they have their problems with dual citizenship too.

[Shulzhenko] A number of countries recognize dual citizenship. For instance, under the Spanish Constitution the state can conclude treaties on granting dual citizenship with Latin American countries or countries which maintain special relations with Spain. Spanish citizens can apply for naturalization in these countries without losing their original citizenship, even if these countries do not recognize them as their citizens on a reciprocal basis. Measures to settle questions pertaining to dual citizenship through the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral treaties have also been adopted in other countries. So, for instance, certain countries (Britain and France, and Belgium and the Netherlands) have concluded bilateral agreements concerning the military service of people with dual citizenship.

[Feofanov] This seems to indicate that dual citizenship is viewed negatively both by "us," and "them."

[Shulzhenko] Beyond any question. I believe that legislation should proceed from the fundamental premise that every person should be the citizen of one country.

Fire Engulfs Lumber Areas in Khabarovsk Kray

LD0808102188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Khabarovsk, 8 Aug (TASS)—Fierce fires are ranging in the Far Eastern taiga. Approximately 130,000 hectares are engulfed by fire, which has taken hold of sections of the main lumber base of Khabarovsk Kray.

Fire fighting units are faced with the task of protecting populated areas, electricity lines, and the railway, with all efforts concentrated on these sectors.

Economic

Rules on Taxing Cooperatives Explained

PM0408135588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 1

[V. Tolstov report citing USSR Finance Ministry aide V. Tur under the rubric "Details for IZVESTIYA": "Taxes on Cooperatives and Cooperative Members"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has suspended operation of the decree of 14 March 1988, which laid down the rate of cooperative members' income tax.

We asked V. Tur, deputy chief of the USSR Ministry of Finance Consolidated Department of State Revenues and Taxes, to talk about this in more detail.

[Tur] As is well known, the USSR Ministry of Finance, after examining at a recent session the basic principles involved in taxing the income of cooperatives and citizens working in them, decided to set up a special commission. It has been charged with preparing a draft act of legislation to regulate the economic relations between cooperatives and the state. The USSR Law on the Cooperative System serves as the basis for this act.

Since the commission will need some time for its work, it was decided that the income tax levied on those working in cooperatives will be maintained for the time being at the rate applicable to workers and employees in the national economy. This provision is to be applied to the income of cooperative members paid as of July this year.

This procedure will also be applied in payment for work carried out in the period up to July—if, for example, payment is made for contract work started earlier, in the spring, or if a member of a cooperative or citizen working there under contract was unable for some reason to receive the wages due him on time, because he was sick, for example.

But if a cooperative worker received his income in April, May, or June and tax has already been deducted according to the rates laid down under the USSR Supreme Soviet Decree of 14 March, no recomputation will be carried out.

This procedure will be maintained until the new tax procedure is introduced.

Now for the income of cooperatives themselves: A number of decisions on the procedure governing the activity of cooperatives in a number of spheres of production, the sale of output, and provision of services were made by the USSR Council of Ministers last year. It was laid down at the time that cooperatives pay income tax of 2-3 percent in the first year of operation, 3-5 percent in the second year, and 10 percent in subsequent years. Soviet ispolkoms, which register cooperatives' charters, set the tax rate here in more specific terms.

Experience shows that this approach does not take account of all the variety of cooperatives' activity. New kinds of activity have appeared. They are useful but do not fit, for example, within the framework of the recent government decisions. It is not clear, then, how to levy income tax on them. The USSR Council of Ministers, therefore, has now adopted a resolution which provides that all cooperatives without exception engaged in the sphere of production and services, including agricultural cooperatives (save for kolkhozes), must pay equal income tax based on the aforementioned scale. [Tur ends]

It has been reported to the editorial office that many specialists, scientists, and cooperative members have joined the commission set up by the USSR Government

to draft the act of legislation on income tax in cooperatives and other aspects of their economic relations with the state. The commission has started its work.

Terms, Prospects for Convertible Ruble Discussed

PM0508115188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian Aug 88 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with Professor V.D. Belkin, chief of the National Economic Problems Laboratory under the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium's Commission for the Study of Productive Forces and Natural Resources, by M. Berger under the rubric "Reform of the Economy—Foundation of Restructuring": "Convertible Ruble: When and on What Terms. Conversation With Professor V. Belkin"; date and place not given—first two paragraphs are boxed introduction in boldface]

[Text] **Party decisions in recent years have repeatedly emphasized the need to make the ruble convertible. This would make it possible to acquire goods and services freely from other countries and to establish and develop multilateral economic ties, this being a most important condition for the successful functioning of any national economy.**

IZVESTIYA's correspondent talks today about the terms and prospects of the ruble's convertibility with Professor V.D. Belkin, chief of the National Economic Problems Laboratory under the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium's Commission for the Study of Productive Forces and Natural Resources.

[Berger] Viktor Danilovich, let us begin by defining our terms. What is the meaning of freely convertible currency? How do you perceive the ruble's convertibility?

[Belkin] Reference works define this term as the opportunity to exchange one country's national currency freely for the currency of other countries. In brief, it means free circulation of money beyond a state's borders. That is exactly how we would like to see the ideal ruble.

[Berger] Why do we need this "free circulation" of the ruble? Is it necessary enough to raise this problem to the level of state tasks?

[Belkin] The famous prerevolution statesman S. Vitte (his works were recently reissued in our country) wrote something along these lines: A state's prestige is measured not by the number of its soldiers or the firepower of its guns, but by the stability of its national currency.

The most effective involvement in the international division of labor is possible only on the basis of a convertible currency. It is also important to emphasize the following point: The new thinking presupposes expansion of international contacts, including business, cultural, sports, and public contacts. Their normal implementation requires foreign currency. Some people know from the newspapers and others from their own experience how awkward Soviet people feel abroad at times, even those who earn well and hold eminent office. The amount of foreign currency issued in exchange for rubles is such that they are forced to restrict themselves in everything so as to bring home something more than just memories.

[Berger] In this case, why can the ruble not be made convertible right away?

[Belkin] Because a political decision alone is not sufficient to achieve convertibility. It is a country's economy that renders its currency convertible. Our ruble does not circulate freely because hitherto we have been unable to give guarantees to foreign holders of rubles that they are properly backed by goods and services.

[Berger] In other words, we are talking about the competitiveness of our goods?

[Belkin] Yes, and about the quantity of these goods. We do have products which people abroad are eager to acquire, but not too many unfortunately. Hence one of the most important tasks which the economic reform has to solve is the expansion of exports.

As a matter of fact, we have more than enough problems also in the domestic market.

Enterprises are even more constrained in the utilization of funds than ordinary customers. In addition to money, they also need quotas and stocks. Actually, quotas and coupons are, alas, nothing exotic in ordinary customers' lives either. Some goods can no longer be acquired no matter how much money is tendered, and money in our country thus loses one of its basic functions—to serve as a universal means of exchange. As a matter of fact, convertibility also means ability to exchange money for anything you like. It is therefore necessary to begin with the ruble's convertibility inside the country.

[Berger] To be honest, this sounds rather absurd: to achieve domestic convertibility of the ruble.

[Belkin] It does not matter how it sounds, that is the way the question ought to be put. After all, if the ruble were circulating freely inside the country we would have no need for sugar coupons or years of waiting for cars or cooperative apartments; there would be no need for either contractual work quotas, or equipment funds, or any other artificial restrictions on demand. There would not be any need to even talk about the necessity of organizing wholesale trade or developing a market for the means of production. Everything would operate automatically.

[Berger] Therefore—as far as I can make out—the ruble's convertibility, even if only domestically, is a question of the success or failure of economic reform?

[Belkin] Absolutely correct. It is no accident that we are discussing the course of the economic reform with such keen interest. There was an intense discussion on this

topic at the 19th party conference. The CPSU Central Committee July plenum focused its attention on the problems of enhancing Soviet people's living standards. The more consistently and energetically we implement the reform, the more realistic it will be to give the ruble full purchasing power and make it tradable [obratimyy].

It seems to me, however, that you exhibited what I consider unacceptable levity when you said "even if only." Ensuring domestic convertibility is a tremendous boon, a colossal achievement compared with what we have today.

A healthy and fullblooded functioning of the economy is based on the ruble's tradability. Moreover, only commodity-money relations and money (real money, as we have already agreed, "tradable money") can ensure the combination of centralized management and independence of enterprises.

[Berger] I don't quite understand how?

[Belkin] I am afraid that by no means everyone fully realizes that economic management means management in which the help of money is mandatory.

[Berger] Could it simply be that not everyone agrees with this?

[Belkin] But no other method of economic management has been devised so far. Anything else would be administrative.

[Berger] Consequently, when asked how to manage—with help from the plan or with help from money—you would reply: "With help from money"?

[Belkin] I would reply that management should use the help of a plan compiled in money terms. The two are not at all mutually exclusive—rather the opposite. This is proved by the experience of countries such as France, Japan, Hungary.

Experience—this time in other countries—also shows that physical planning is, in essence, directive and based on costs. Its result is that everything in the economy is expressed in physical terms, and this hinders the social division of labor and preserves existing proportions in the economy regardless of their effectiveness. Actually, it was this sort of planning that brought our country to a precrisis condition.

[Berger] But on the other hand, is planning in value form or monetary planning not inflationary in essence? Say the Ministry of Light Industry is given a target to produce goods worth R80 billion in the next period. Suppose it is short of raw materials, capacities, and the work force to manufacture output worth this sum. It will then have no other option for reaching the set level but to increase prices and replace cheap goods with expensive ones.

[Belkin] I will take the liberty to slightly correct what you said. Light industry will have no other—you were correct, but I would add this—no softer option for reaching the set level of growth in production volume. But other kinds of reserves, non-price reserves, are always available. Otherwise, progress would simply come to a standstill. The point is to encourage producers to seek and utilize these reserves.

I think there is no need to prove that normatives for the consumption of raw and other materials, inspectors' supervision of price levels, and other similar measures are ineffective. Mankind has invented no better instrument than commodity-money relations for regulating economic ties, and in the same way nothing more effective than competition has been devised to regulate prices.

Incidentally, it is interesting to know that the same Vitte of whom we spoke at the beginning, having obtained finances to build the Trans-Siberian Railroad, announced an open competition for contractors to perform the work. There were many tenders—people wanted to earn treasury rubles or obtain state orders, like they do today. The outcome of this competition was that the best and cheapest options were selected.

Monetary planning implemented without economic competitiveness can indeed lead to price rises and can exacerbate negative trends. The opposite is also true: Socialist competitiveness will give such planning the utmost efficiency.

[Berger] It seems to me that we have deviated somewhat from the main topic of our conversation—the ruble's convertibility.

[Belkin] Not at all, we have not moved away from it in the least. The socialist market, competition, balanced prices, and much else that has "distracted" us—these are necessary conditions for meaningful money tradability.

Questions of the ruble's convertibility, even if only domestic convertibility to start with, acquire growing importance. The economic reform promises more economic independence for regions and republics. The 19th party conference placed regional and especially republican economic accountability on the agenda. Therefore, the enhancement of territories' economic independence could have different and even contradictory consequences. Everything will depend on whether we have a proper wholesale trade, a market for the means of production, and therefore tradable money, or whether independence will be automatically imposed on existing conditions.

Should the latter occur, it could result in hitherto unprecedented parochialism, autarky, intensification of centrifugal tendencies, running the territory's economy in physical terms, and possibly attempts to establish some sort of "economic borders."

Regional economic accountability would produce diametrically opposed results in market conditions. It will be no longer centrifugal but centripetal forces that will develop multilateral economic ties. This is how this will appear in general lines: Every region will strive to sell more of what it can make well and cheaply in order to earn money to buy from another region what the latter makes well and cheaply.

Similar processes can be traced in the EEC's example, with economic unification of the countries under way and even introduction of a common currency—the ECU [European Currency Unit].

[Berger] Is this similar to the transfer ruble being used within the CEMA framework?

[Belkin] Not very similar, unfortunately. The transfer ruble is just a unit of account used in conjunction with a vast quantity of differentiated currency coefficients—DCC's.

[Berger] Why are these DCC's needed?

[Belkin] Trade exchanges with socialist countries are conducted mainly on a clearing basis. This is a system of cashless settlement, a reckoning of mutual demands. If we supply Hungary with "Lada" cars worth 500,000 [rubles], we would take from them tomatoes or "Ikarusz" buses worth approximately the same amount. Hence, we have adjustment figures to be applied in calculating almost every type of commodity, the DCC's in question. This commodity exchange is not bad in principle, but multilateral trade ties are a much higher level of economic relations. They can be properly organized only with the help of a ruble tradable within the CEMA framework. The solution of this task could be seen as the second stage of transition to a convertible ruble.

Therefore the transfer ruble, like indeed the foreign currency rates of exchange which are regularly published by IZVESTIYA, is something extremely artificial which does not reflect the real correlation of monetary units.

[Berger] How are these exchange rates calculated?

[Belkin] Even in prerevolution times, the ruble-dollar rate of exchange was calculated using the gold standard, in other words according to the extent each monetary unit was backed by gold. Until July 1914 $1 was worth R1.9434 and vice versa. The tsarist gold ruble was quoted on money markets, as was, incidentally, the Soviet gold chervonets in the twenties. The ruble-dollar rate of exchange in October 1922 was the same as in 1914. Subsequent calculations used the same method even though, since the early thirties, the ruble's gold content ceased to correspond to the officially declared figure.

[Berger] In other words, the ruble was no longer exchangeable for gold according to its declared quantity?

[Belkin] U.S. banks continued to exchange the dollar for gold according to its declared content until 1973 subject, if truth be said, to certain restrictions. Russian banks did so until 1914. An exchange rate for the Soviet gold chervonets was recorded in the twenties, but the chervonets itself disappeared.

Reference works contain exchange rates for the ruble in different years even though, as I have already said, since the early thirties this rate ceased to correspond or reflect the real parity between the ruble's and the dollar's purchasing power.

[Berger] How is such parity determined?

[Belkin] The principle is very simple—you compare how many units of identical goods can be bought for R1 and $1.

[Berger] Were there any attempts to officially establish and publish such an exchange rate?

[Belkin] I was involved in the first postwar calculation of such an exchange rate, introduced in March 1950. The calculations were done at the Central Statistical Administration [CSA] on personal instructions from Stalin. The CSA National Economic Balance Department was led at the time by Valerian Antonovich Sobol, a profoundly knowledgeable economist. Methods for calculating the ruble-dollar equivalent in terms of representative commodities were elaborated under his leadership. In other words, the purchasing power of monetary units was being compared.

Stalin made no secret of his wish to have a high exchange rate for the ruble. He wished—perhaps for propaganda purposes—to measure his strength against the United States in the foreign currency markets. It is true that, no matter what calculation was used, it could have served only purely prestige purposes—there could not have been even a mention of the ruble's convertibility. Its exchange rate could have been neither confirmed nor refuted by trade practice.

We wished to produce a more or less honest calculation even though, as you can understand, we could not have failed to take Stalin's wish into account. We worked on a huge quantity of representative commodities, but we missed no opportunity to use the ones that were most advantageous for us.

Just like most of Stalin's instructions, these instructions were also urgent. We spent only about 1 week on the entire work. We spent the last stage without taking a break from our calculations—CSA Chief V.N. Starovskiy was in the Kremlin, in the office of A.I. Mikoyan, who was deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers at the time, and who in turn was awaiting the results together with Stalin. V.A. Sobol was installed in Starovskiy's office, next to the government telephone, while I and the calculators were installed in Sobol's office.

I recall a very successful representative commodity in the "Clothing" section. We had taken U.S. gabardine overcoats and Soviet-made overcoats refashioned from military great-coats left over from wartime stocks. The correlation was simply remarkable—R1.20 to $1. We failed to discover such successful examples in most other sections even though, I must admit, we were doggedly looking for them. Suddenly RSFSR CSA Chief Kolpakov came to our rescue, saying that he had discovered a perfect representative commodity—hats. At that time cloth caps were understandably priced much higher, while the prices of prewar hats were being steadily reduced.

Phony calculations were also made for metal, machine tools, foodstuffs, fuel.... The entire national product, in short. We then added a 15-percent supplement—for the better quality and "soundness" of our commodities compared with the American. Our well-intentioned colleagues recalled, for example, the serviceable life of American army leather boots and our own felt boots. It was obvious that boots were worn for much longer in our country. To put it briefly, when all the calculations were done and all "reserves" for boosting the ruble's exchange rate were exhausted, we obtained the figure of R14 (1.4 "new" rubles) to the dollar. The calculations were dispatched by army courier to Starovskiy in Mikoyan's office, while we were driven home by car—it was late at night.

I am still amazed by such haste in resolving such complex tasks.... imagine my amazement when I read in the newspaper: "$1 is equivalent to R4"—just 40 of today's kopecks.

I kept asking Sobol about this. Reluctantly, repeating what Starovskiy had said, he told me how Iosif Vissarionovich had looked at our calculations, knitted his brows, picked up his blue pencil and, crossing out our figures, wrote down: "R4."

[Berger] How was the ruble's rate in terms of other currencies calculated?

[Belkin] At the time, just as today, the dollar was a reserve currency according to the Bretton Woods agreement and was used to calculate exchange rates for all other currencies. The exchange rate for today's ruble calculated in 1961, the year of the monetary reform, was determined according to its declared gold content—0.987412 grams. According to this calculation, the dollar equivalent in 1961 was 90 kopeks. We are still using this standard of reckoning, taking into account only the decline of the dollar rate.

But no matter how you calculate it, this will not render the ruble more convertible. What is needed are economic rather than arithmetical efforts.

[Berger] What specifically?

[Belkin] To switch to wholesale trade in means of production not just in words but in reality as early as the current 5-year plan period. To improve the entire sphere of circulation by replacing "easy" credit money with properly earned tradable money.

If we succeed in doing this, we will be able to increase the mass of commodities and improve their quality. Why am I so confident of this? Simply because producers will be chasing after real tradable rubles just like they chase after consumers' money in any real market. How is success in this "race" to be achieved? Only by improving the consumer qualities of goods and expanding the manufacture of output which is effectively demanded by rubles. In the first instance, this will make it possible to switch to domestic convertibility of the ruble, followed by its convertibility within the CEMA framework. Once we are there, it will become possible to start talking about the ruble joining the ranks of hard currencies.

It is, of course, naive to assume that this task can be resolved swiftly . But the basic ways to solve it are clear. They lie through the earliest possible implementation of radical economic reform, through radical restructuring of our entire national economic complex, ensuring its orientation toward high end results.

Agricultural

Adoption of Draft Kolkhoz Statute Reported

LD0608154688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0709 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, 6 Aug (TASS)—TASS commentator Igor Galkin writes: From now, Soviet kolkhozes have the right to exercise any form of economic activity without restrictions, including trade exchange with foreign enterprises and firms, and joint production with them. This has been documented in the newly adopted draft statute. The text of the document has not yet been published. [passage omitted]

A kolkhoz will now make decisions independently as to whether it will conclude contracts with state procurement organizations for the sale of its produce. It will have the right to sell it in the market at market prices, or supply other organizations at contract prices. It goes without saying that kolkhozes will not lose interest in selling a proportion of their produce to the state, for it guarantees a stable market. But it is extremely important that these economic relations also make the state more flexible in setting prices, in providing fertilizer means for plant protection, mixed fodder, and technology for agricultural production. [passage omitted]

'Red Tape' Continues To Hamper Farms

PM0508135588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 88 Second Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Hero of Socialist Labor A. Kauls, corresponding member of the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences and chairman of the "Adazhi" Agrofirm: "There Is No Third Way"]

[Excerpt] Rizhskiy Rayon, Latvian SSR—[Passage omitted] The first steps taken by collectives using various forms of contract and lease convincingly reveal the tremendous potential of our kolkhozes and sovkhozes and increase the peasant's sense of being the real master. But just look at the timid steps marking the path of the new economic mechanism. This too has been penetrated by the bug of red tape and report mania, which is capable of eating away at and killing everything living.

One other problem gives me no rest. And probably not only me. This is the tremendous losses of food. Farms lose grain, meat, and milk. Many potatoes and vegetables do not reach the consumers. It was pointed out at the party conference that if we manage to gather in, transport, preserve, and process the harvest in time and deliver food to the consumer in good time, then, given the present level of field and livestock unit productivity, it will be possible to increase food consumption by 20-30 percent.

In my view, bolder use must be made of waste-free technology. At "Adazhi" this provides a sizable profit.

We recently had a discussion about the agrofirm's future. By 1990 we are to increase the milk yield to 5,500 kg per cow, supply 4,000 tonnes of meat, and increase production of french fries, mashed potato, and potato sticks.

Will our plans be realized? As a rule, we have never deviated from what was planned. Particularly if we are helped and not hindered. What are these hindrances? They were clearly mentioned at the party conference: In many cases the old administrative diktat is essentially preserved in the guise of the state order and economic normatives.

Let us see what changes the state order has brought to the countryside. The same plan target is decked out in different clothes. Those who determine it still treat everyone alike. Our specialists calculated that the "Adazhi" firm and several other farms could provide the Latvian capital with its entire supply of potatoes. And what happened? The republic Gosplan and Gosagroprom had doubts about our calculations. Previously, they said, it took five rayons to do this, so what could just a few farms do? Just try to prove it. You will wear out your shoes traipsing around offices.

According to the model statute on the agro-industrial association, it is created on the basis of the rayon agro-industrial association. The statute contains these long-familiar words: The association distributes quotas and capital and lays down plans (the state order) for production. Just as hitherto, the capital investment and credit quotas are in its hands, and it has a monopoly on services to agriculture.

Tutelage crushes the leader's independence and deprives him of enterprise. And yet only a real master is capable of making the sharp turn toward economic methods of production. The chief obstacle here is the existence of a huge managerial apparatus. It is this that is entrusted with formulating proposals for cutting staff. Will they really do this? I doubt it. They are more likely to move chairs from one office to another.

It is not out of place today to recall Karl Marx' words that "food production is the paramount condition of the life of direct producers and of any production at all." Do the leaders of certain ministries and departments serving agriculture remember this? Hardly. Otherwise, why do they regard the countryside as a magic tablecloth [on which food miraculously appears]?

I believe that this is the reason why we have not become equal partners with industry and other sectors of the national economy. Why do I believe this? In no other sector is production planned unless the raw materials are guaranteed. And only in agriculture is such a thing possible and admissible. You cannot repair a roof without slate and other roofing material.

And it is quite incomprehensible why, given the previous (extremely low) quality, there has been an impressive leap in the prices of tractors, combines, other equipment, mineral fertilizers, and construction materials. In my opinion, this is daylight robbery of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. For they do not possess the treasures of Ali Baba or the Count of Monte Cristo to be able to afford inordinately inflated prices. The contract and economic accountability [khozraschet] make them count every kopek. How can this position as partners be combined with the villagers' desire to live on full cost-recovery?

It is not clear to me, for example, on whose orders machine builders manufacture equipment for the countryside. I cannot recall any designer or leader of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building asking me: "What machines does the 'Adazhi' firm need?" Everything that they produce we drag into our own machine shops, where we finish it off, remake it, or bring it up to scratch. How long can this continue?

The following thought frequently gives me no rest. Progressive farms which have mastered intensive technologies harvest an average of 50-60 quintals of grain. Some grow even more. But what is the average yield in the country as a whole? It does not exceed 19 quintals. What does this show? An inability to use intensive technology or a reluctance to bother with it? Let us count up how many specialists we have in rayon agro-industrial associations, agro-industrial committees, institutes,

and experimental stations. But what value are they if they are incapable of helping kolkhozes and sovkhozes to introduce intensive technologies.... The contract has graphically shown the insolvency of many of them. Particularly the lease contract. Team and link members refuse to pay agronomists, zoo technicians, and engineers money they have not earned. This is why some specialists deliberately hold up the assimilation of new forms of management and administration.

Over the 14 years that "Adazhi's" collective has entrusted me with the post of its chairman I have seen for myself that it is possible to think up a most original form of labor organization and give the farm a fine-sounding name, but unless this touches people and arouses their vital interest, then their souls will be empty, like the kolkhoz cash office. And, as you know, you cannot pour water from an empty bucket.

We are doing a great deal to increase a person's material interest in the results of his labor. But this alone cannot ensure long-term success. I am convinced that concern for material incentives must definitely be backed up by our persistent efforts to shape a person's moral qualities and deep ideological commitment.

It will be possible to win when everyone feels himself the master and when everyone has been made aware of the profound meaning of the equivalency: the working person to his farm, and the farm to its working person. Then no one will bear a grudge. And everyone will see the fruits of this labor on his own table, on the store counter. In my view, there simply is no third way.

Lipetsk, Kazakhstan Grain Figures Reported

PM0708131588 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 5 August in its First Edition carries on page 1 under the headlines "Grain Sale Plan in Place" and "Standout Lease-Holders" reports from Lipetsk and Dzhambul which state that "600,000 tonnes of winter wheat, rye, and barley have been dispatched to procurement centers" in Lipetsk Oblast, and that the farmers of southern Kazakhstan have "dispatched 405,000 tonnes of grain to the elevators."

Agricultural Developments for 27 Jul Noted

LD0608005388 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 27 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

27 July:

Harvesting of early grain crops has begun in Altay. The hot, dry summer has accelerated the ripening of the harvest, and farmers have begun cutting peas. (1100)

The first grain from the new harvest has arrived at the elevators from the Chuvashia grain fields, where the harvest has started 2 weeks earlier than usual, thanks to warm weather. (1100)

Heavy rainfall in Stavropolye is making it difficult for truck drivers to transport grain to the elevators. The rain has damaged roads in Blagodarnenskiy, Aleksandrovskiy, Arzgriskiy, and several other rayons, where the reinforced concrete surfacing has been destroyed, and bridges, embankments, and drains have been damaged. According to preliminary estimates almost R3.5 million worth of damage has been done. However, work to transport the grain is not stopping, and repair workers are busy. (1100)

Over 1 million tonnes of wheat have been harvested in Volgograd Oblast to date. Nearly all of the grain is of strong and valuable varieties. (1130)

Threshing of grain at farms was today completed in Saratov Oblast on 1 million hectares. Winter grains have been gathered in the main, giving on average more than 14 quintals per hectare. (1300)

Farms in the Ukraine have fulfilled the annual plan for laying in haylage, procuring more than 10 million tonnes, which is more than last year for this period. Farms in the south are carrying out the second cut of grasses. (1300)

According to Goskomstat data, by 25 July grain crops and pulses without corn had been reaped on 26.8 million hectares and had been threshed on 21.5 million hectares. (1500)

Scientific

Nuclear Power Plant Block Closed for Repair

LD0808084188 Vilnius in English to North America 2200 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] For the first time we were informed in advance that the block in the Ignalina nuclear power plant is to be stopped for planned repair work. First block of the power station was to be stopped today and the repair work will take 70 days. Pending this time only the second block will be in operation.

Up to now we were never informed either beforehand or after about the stopping of the power blocks, be they planned or forced.

It was also much belated information concerning the localized fire at the power station last month: Cables caught fire then in one of the corridors of the first block. The situation at the Ignalina nuclear power plant and its continued expansion are matters of great concern to the public which gives rise to heated discussions in the press.

The administration has started accepting visitors on explanatory excursions around the power station and now for the first time we were informed about the planned stopping of the power block.

Scientist Dissatisfied With Gorbachev Report

LD0408080888 Moscow TASS in English 0241 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 4 TASS—An admission of dissatisfaction with decisions of a major party forum is an uncommon thing in the USSR for the time being. The more so, if it is made by a participant in the forum.

Professor Robert Nigmatulin of Moscow University, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and a delegate of the 19th all-union party conference, is dissatisfied with the provisions of the theses of the CPSU Central Committee and the report by Mikhail Gorbachev, which concern his professional interests—the sphere of science. "The conference itself could not and was not called upon to change the situation in a specific sphere, for instance in science," he said in an interview with journalists. "This forum was to draft a platform, a strategy and to determine priorities. However, to my mind, it glossed over the sharpness of problems pertaining to the position of science in the USSR. This position can be called difficult enough. One of the main reasons is lack of funds allocated for fundamental research and a poor material base of branch research institutes."

"A lack of funds allocated for fundamental research and a poor material base of branch research institutions."

"A lack of funds results in helplessness and a drop in the prestige of science," Nigmatulin went on to say. "An inflow of young talent decreased in the recent past. Salaries of young staff members are very modest."

At the same time, in the scientist's opinion, one will not achieve much only by an increase in expenditures if the system of running scientific establishments is not changed simultaneously. At present it is extemely centralized. "Now we say jokingly that every our scientist has his own superior." [sentence as received]

Sharing his thoughts on the position of intellectuals in Soviet society, the scientist noted that it is undeservedly downgraded. In Nigmatulin's opinion, it is necessary to step up the influence of intellectuals on the affairs of society and the state. This will help to some extent to insure society from erroneous actions.

Cosmonauts Continue Work in Near-Earth Orbit

LD0508125188 Moscow TASS in English 1206 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—A TASS correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre:

Soviet Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are continuing on the endurance flight on board the research complex "Mir".

According to the schedule of work on board the automatic transport space ship Progress-37 the cosmonauts have transferred a larger part of the cargoes brought to the orbit into the station. Drinking water has been pumped out of the tanks of the space tanker into the tanks of the base block. The joint engine of the station is to be replenished with fuel components within the next few days.

Today the crew have been chiefly engaged in routine work with the equipment and on-board systems. In the course of the day the cosmonauts are to replace some assemblies and parts, whose guaranteed service life is expiring, with new ones. In particular, the crew will work with the life sustaining system and the onboard radio-engineering equipment. Time has been allotted for preparing research instruments for the forthcoming investigations.

According to the results of the medical checkup, the pulse beat of the crew commander is 60, of the flight engineer—65 a minute. Arterial pressure is respectively 120 by 80 and 115 by 75 millimetres of the mercury column.

Work in the near-earth orbit goes on.

Refueling Operation Planned

LD0708073688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] For Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, today ends the 33d week of orbit around the earth. Today is a rest day aboard the manned Mir complex. Only 2 hours of physical training on the cycle ergometer and the running track are planned. Under the timetable of work with the automatic cargo spaceship Progress-37, it is planned today to refuel the station's engine installation with fuel from the space tanker. These operations will be carried out by commands from the Flight Control Center.

According to the crew's reports, everything is okay onboard. The flight is proceeding in accordance with the scheduled program.

Soviet-Afghan Space Flight Set for 29 Aug

LD0508201588 Moscow TASS in English 1951 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova reports from Zvezdny town:

The international Soviet-Afghan crews today completed the last practical exercises on the simulation complex of the "Mir" orbital station and the "Soyuz" craft. Now the international crew which happens to have the luck to be selected for the space flight, is to have a rendezvous with

the "Mir" complex in the low-earth orbit where Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are working from December 21, 1987. The launching of the international Soviet-Afghan crew is scheduled for August 29.

Instructor experts spoke highly of the professional preparedness of the crew members who have mastered all the stages of the coming flight and the hardware on board.

They did it through hard work. Every morning, with the exception of days off, from February 24 of this year, two swarthy, dashing officers in the uniforms of Afghan fliers headed for the cosmonauts' training centre along the arrow-straight alley of the cosmonauts. They were Colonel Muhammad Dauran and Captain Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad. In simulation complexes, in the studies, in the laboratories they met with their Soviet colleagues—fliers-cosmonauts of the USSR Vladimir Lyakhov and Anatoliy Berezovoy, and the physicians—Valeriy Polyakov, German Arzamazov.

It took the crews a relatively short time to master the most sophisticated equipment. And this was far from simple. The training centre has over the past years changed beyond recognition. Its technological basis has been significantly expanded and renovated. Broad use is now made of computers, simulator training facilities, mock-up spacecraft imitating different stages of the flight—from the launching to the touch-down. And it must be said that, despite the shortened period of training, no allowances were made for the crews. Training proceeded in accordance with the full programme, although, it is true, it had to be telescoped and thus filled with training subjects almost to capacity.

Military

Lizichev Attends Military Prosecutor's Meeting

PM0708133588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 2

[Report by Colonel of Justice V. Smirnov: "At the Main Military Prosecutor's Office"]

[Text] An enlarged session of the Main Military Prosecutor's Office Collegium has been held. A report entitled "Military Prosecutor's Offices' Tasks Arising From the Decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference" was delivered by Lieutenant General of Justice V. Popov, chief military prosecutor.

It was noted that the number of crimes in the Armed Forces has fallen this year, with violations of the rules governing regulation mutual relations down by almost one-third. However, a fundamental improvement in military discipline and law and order require an increase in coordinated efforts by the command, political organs, party and Komsomol organizations, and the Army and Navy communities in the work of preventing violations of the law and in the legal education of personnel.

Under conditions of restructuring and the strengthening of legal principles in society's life, it is proposed to intensify supervision by the prosecutor's office of the rule of law in the Armed Forces, especially in the social and economic sphere, and in the work of protecting military servicemen's rights and lawful interests.

The collegium session was attended by Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General V. Matrosov, chief of border troops and deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; and A. Katusev, USSR deputy prosecutor general.

Proceedings Dropped Against Afghan War AWOL

PM0808090988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 6

[G. Alimov report: "Criminal Case Against Former Soldier Dropped"]

[Text] The Main Military Prosecutor's Office has decided to close the criminal case against former Soviet Army Private Nikolay Golovin.

Let us remind readers: N. Golovin was captured by Afghan oppositionists and spent the last 2 years in Canada (IZVESTIYA carried a report about him in issue No 203). The former Soviet soldier returned home 19 July. He made this decision following a statement by the USSR prosecutor general announcing an amnesty for all who, for various reasons, had been captured in Afghanistan.

This is what Major General of Justice V. Provorotov, senior assistant to the main military prosecutor, had to say:

"The criminal case against Golovin was instituted prior to his capture. Toward the end of June 1982 he embezzled an automatic rifle and sold it to an Afghan citizen. An investigation was conducted; Golovin was detained. In his desire to evade punishment, he took advantage of an inattentive guard and absented himself from the unit without leave. He was then captured.

"The investigation was resumed following Golovin's return home. He described the circumstances surrounding the offenses committed by him. He told the investigator: 'I went through a lot while in captivity. The Soviet state gave me an opportunity to return home. I want to expiate my guilt by honest labor.'

"Taking all the mitigating circumstances into account, including his voluntary return home, we have decided to drop the case and free Golovin from criminal responsibility. His whole life lies ahead of him. Much will now depend on him personally. He still has to find a job and restore normal ties with his comrades and friends."

General Decorated for Services in Armed Forces
PM0708133188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

["USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the Conferment of the Order 'For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces,' Third Class, to Comrade I.K. Yakovlev"]

[Text] For services to the Soviet Army, Army General Ivan Kirillovich Yakovlev is awarded the order "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces," Third Class.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The Kremlin, Moscow, 4 August 1988